



Major County Sheriffs' Association

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The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bilirakis,

I write to you today as the President of the Major County Sheriffs' Association (MCSA), an association of elected sheriffs representing our nation's largest counties with populations of 500,000 people or more serving over 100 million Americans. I write to thank you for your leadership in introducing H.R. 3392, the Medicare Part D Patient Safety and Drug Abuse Prevention Act, and express our support for this important legislation.

Prescription drug abuse and diversion have become among the largest contributing factors to crime in our community. Our sheriffs have seen firsthand how law enforcement struggles every day to combat this growing epidemic and associated crime.

Each year, prescription drug abuse claims nearly 15,000 lives — more than cocaine and heroin combined. In my county alone, there were 152 seizures of prescription drugs in 2013, each resulting in an arrest. Your legislation would address this problem head on by stopping the epidemic where it starts – at the pharmacy counter.

H.R. 3392 would give Medicare the same authority as Medicaid and the commercial market to prevent prescription drug fraud and abuse. In addition, the coordination of information sharing between prescription drug plans and the Medicare Drug Integrity Contractors (MEDIC) law enforcement and the state licensing board gives us an additional tool in this fight.

We look forward to working with you to advance your legislation, and appreciate your efforts to help our law enforcement officers.

Sincerely,

Donny Youngblood
President, Major County Sheriffs' Association
Sheriff-Coroner, Kern County (CA)