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The Honorable Paul Ryan  
Speaker of the House  
H-232 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
317 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
235 Cannon House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20510

August 23, 2018

Dear Speaker Ryan, Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Pelosi, and  
Minority Leader Schumer:

We, the undersigned Attorneys General, write to express our support for swift  
passage of the Stopping Overdoses of Fentanyl Analogues (SOFA) Act.

There is little doubt that the nation's ongoing battle against heroin and opiates  
is unlike any other public health emergency. It touches all corners of our  
society. States and localities are on the front line of this crisis and are a large  
part of winning the battle from both a law enforcement and public health  
perspective. We are grateful for the steps that Congress has taken to assist our  
states, including passing the International Narcotics Trafficking Emergency  
Response by Detecting Incoming Contraband with Technology (INTERDICT)  
Act earlier this year.

Unfortunately, as states have taken measures on a local level to solve this  
crisis, a new front has emerged in the form of trafficking in fentanyl and  
fentanyl analogues. As you are probably aware, fentanyl is a synthetic opioid  
that is used to treat late-stage cancer patients. Sadly, fentanyl and its analogues  
have made their way onto our streets with alarming regularity and overdose  
deaths related to fentanyl now surpass deaths related to heroin. These  
troubling facts were expressed in detail recently in a May 8, 2018, hearing in  
the House of Representatives Judiciary Committee entitled, "Challenges and  
Solutions in the Opioid Abuse Crisis."

The SOFA Act will eliminate the current loophole which keeps the controlled  
substance scheduling system one step behind those who manufacture fentanyl  
analogues and then introduce these fentanyl analogues into the opioid supply.  
In short, the SOFA Act utilizes catch-all language which will allow the Drug  
Enforcement Administration to proactively schedule all newly modified  
fentanyl analogues and thus will assist law enforcement's efforts on the front  
end. The SOFA Act unplugs the entire fentanyl machine in the first instance

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by making fentanyl analogues illegal as soon as they are manufactured, which occurs most often abroad in countries without adequate controls.

While there remains much work to be done on all levels of government to address the opioid crisis, we urge Congress to act expeditiously and pass this important piece of legislation.

Very truly yours,



George Jepsen  
Connecticut Attorney General



Steve Marshall  
Alabama Attorney General



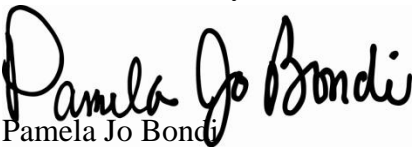
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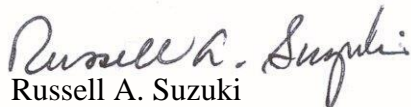
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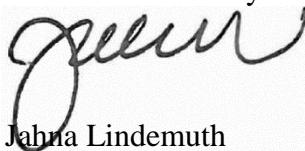
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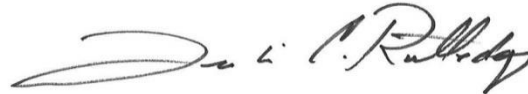
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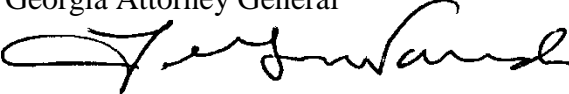
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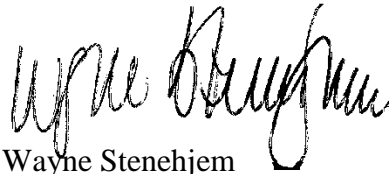
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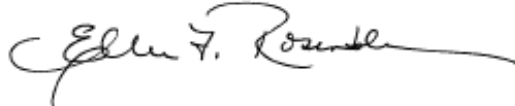
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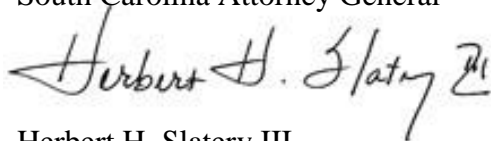
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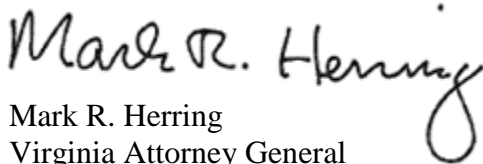
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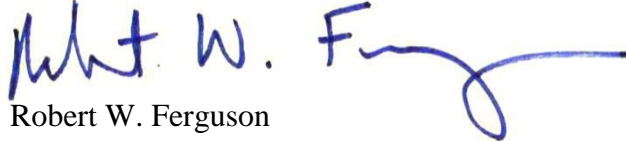
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