



On behalf of Facing Fentanyl, an organization and voice proudly representing more than 200 impacted family organizations, thousands of impacted families and over 2,300 organization members devastated by illicit fentanyl, we are writing to express our strong and heartfelt support for the confirmation of Mr. Terry Cole as Administrator of the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA).

As families who have tragically experienced firsthand the devastating impacts of illicit fentanyl, we deeply recognize the urgency and complexity involved in confronting this deadly epidemic. Addressing this crisis demands compassionate, knowledgeable, experienced, and committed leadership to protecting American communities.

Through his exceptional career and decades of dedicated public service, Mr. Cole has demonstrated precisely these qualities. His longstanding work at the DEA, combined with his leadership roles in domestic and international drug enforcement operations, have equipped him uniquely to confront the challenges posed by drug trafficking organizations responsible for the fentanyl poisoning crisis devastating our communities.

We are particularly encouraged by Mr. Cole's extensive experience in collaborative international drug enforcement operations. His proven ability to build partnerships across borders is essential as illicit fentanyl and related substances continue to pour into the United States from abroad. The effective disruption of fentanyl trafficking networks is critical for saving countless American lives.

Moreover, Mr. Cole's recent role as Virginia's Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security further demonstrates his commitment to public safety and his keen understanding of coordinating multi-agency responses to complex problems such as drug trafficking and public health crises. This experience is invaluable in unifying efforts at the federal, state, and local levels to combat the fentanyl epidemic comprehensively.

Families impacted by fentanyl across our nation urgently require leadership at the DEA that not only understands the law enforcement aspects of drug trafficking but also comprehends the profoundly personal human toll exacted upon American families. Mr. Cole's professional journey consistently reflects both of these critical insights.

Facing Fentanyl stands resolutely behind Mr. Terry Cole's nomination. His appointment will meaningfully advance the DEA's mission, strengthen vital enforcement strategies, and honor the experiences of impacted families by saving lives and safeguarding communities across the country.

We respectfully urge swift confirmation of Mr. Cole as DEA Administrator and thank you for your thoughtful consideration.

On behalf of fentanyl-impacted families,

Andrea Thomas

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