



Florida Sheriffs Support Comprehensive Drug Control

Approximately 10 people per day die in Florida from opiate overdoses, including those caused by Fentanyl. Fentanyl is a drug that is 50 times more potent than heroin, and Carfentanil, a synthetic opiate is 100 times more potent than Fentanyl and is used as tranquilizer for elephants and other large animals. The widespread use of these drugs has devastated communities across the state. HB 477 and SB 150 create trafficking penalties for Fentanyl and its derivatives, like Carfentanil, to create stiffer penalties for drug dealers and traffickers of Fentanyl—not addicts and users. Most dealers and traffickers do not use drugs, they sell them and exploit other people’s addictions.

These new penalties for trafficking in Fentanyl mirror the current weight trafficking thresholds for heroin:

Drug/Substance	Street User Dosage Units	Weight Thresholds/Years Prison/Number of Doses		
		Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Heroin	(powder) 1/10 of a gram	4-14 grams / 3 years 40-140 doses	14-28 grams / 15 years 140-280 doses	28+ grams / 25 years 280+ doses
Fentanyl/Fentanyl derivatives	(powder) 1/10 of a gram	4-14 grams / 3 years 40-140 doses	14-28 grams / 15 years 140-280 doses	28+ grams / 25 years 280+ doses

For example, a dealer must possess 4 grams of Fentanyl to receive a mandatory minimum 3-year prison sentence. Four grams of Fentanyl translate into at least 40 doses (one dose of Fentanyl is usually 1/10 of a gram). Forty doses of Fentanyl is a lot to possess considering how small the dosage size is compared to the drug’s potency. Fentanyl and Carfentanil are such dangerous drugs to law enforcement officers and other first responders, any accidental contact with even a small amount can be deadly. In anticipation of increased encounters with these drugs, the Florida Department of Law Enforcement requested laboratory technicians be statutorily added to the list of professions allowed to use opioid antagonists to protect against inadvertent contact with the drugs which could result in an overdose.

However, Amendment Barcode #648196 seeks to reverse the intent of HB 477 and SB 150 by allowing a judge to **depart** from a mandatory minimum sentence and allow for reduced sentences for Fentanyl trafficking. The minimum mandatories associated with Fentanyl specifically created by HB 477 and SB 150 are meant to discourage drug dealers and traffickers from bringing more senseless deaths to Florida communities.

HB 477 and SB 150 must be sent to the Governor without Amendment Barcode #648196 so that Florida can begin to address this lethal epidemic.



Support HB 477 & SB 150 and Oppose Amendment #648196