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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

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



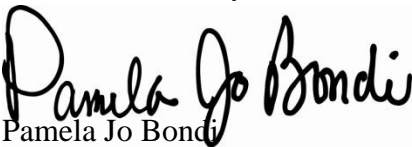
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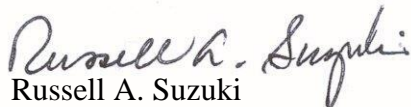
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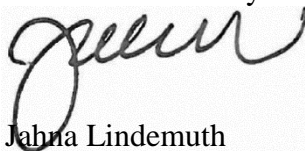
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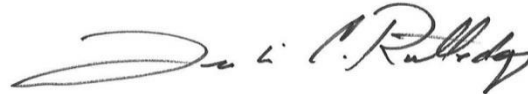
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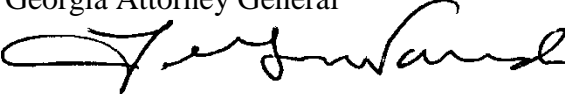
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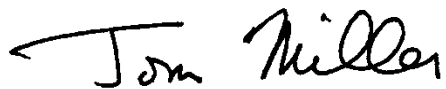
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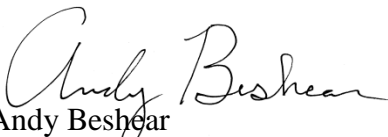
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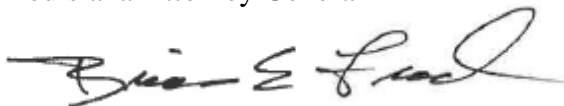
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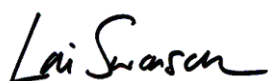
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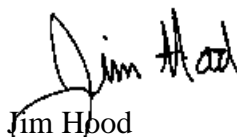
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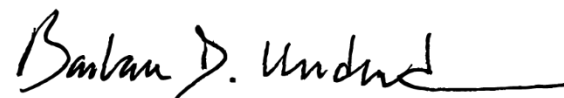
Gordon MacDonald
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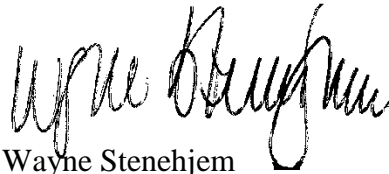
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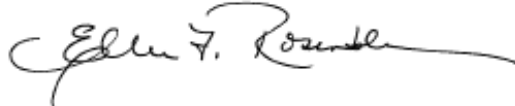
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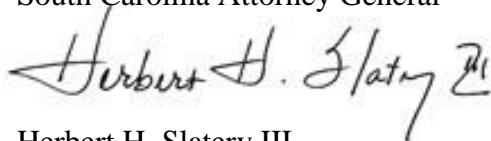
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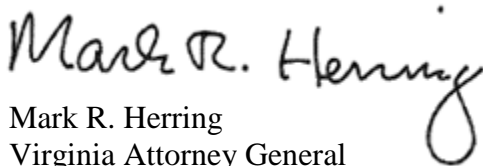
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Texas Attorney General



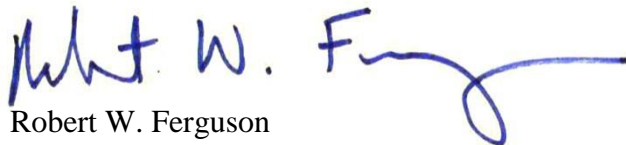
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