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ATTORNEY GENERAL

OFFICE OF THE ARIZONA ATTORNEY GENERAL
STATE OF ARIZONA

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Via Email

Derek S. Maltz
Acting Administrator
United States Drug Enforcement Administration
700 Army Navy Dr.
Arlington Virginia, 22202-4207

Dear Acting Administrator Maltz:

Thank you for speaking with me last week about the need for resources for the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) in Arizona to help Arizona's efforts to fight the fentanyl crises. As we discussed, Arizona is America's fentanyl funnel. With over half of all fentanyl smuggled from Mexico coming through Arizona's border, Arizona stands at the epicenter for America's opioid crisis. Now is the time for the DEA to dedicate more resources to stopping the flow of fentanyl into Arizona.

I have made investigating and prosecuting the Mexican cartels' attempts to flood Arizona with fentanyl a top priority for the Arizona Attorney General's Office. I have instructed my office's Special Investigators to partner with federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies across Arizona to support drug trafficking interdiction efforts.

Today, my office prosecutes most of the drug trafficking wiretaps in Arizona. Since I became Attorney General in 2023, my office has taken off the street and prosecuted cases involving 21.9 million fentanyl pills and 175 pounds of fentanyl powder, enough fentanyl to kill over 39 million people.

I also hired a Fentanyl Strategist to help coordinate anti-fentanyl efforts across Arizona. This first-of-its-kind position coordinates with law enforcement and community partners in four key areas: (1) prevention; (2) prosecution; (3) education and awareness; and (4) treatment. Our Fentanyl Strategist has developed deep partnerships across Arizona with both law enforcement, community organizations, and healthcare professionals to put on programs like Arizona's Fentanyl Forum that focuses on combatting the fentanyl epidemic, addressing fentanyl in prisons, and supporting best practices for harm reduction and treatment.

Just last year, we partnered with your office, the Mayo Clinic, NFL, and Glendale Elementary School District to host a community town hall— "Huddle Up Glendale"— to raise awareness of the dangers of fentanyl.

While these efforts are working, Arizona needs additional resources from our federal partners like the DEA. The DEA is an essential component to Arizona's efforts to fight the Mexican cartels' fentanyl trafficking activities in Arizona, yet the DEA has not dedicated additional resources to Arizona. To that end, I am requesting the following four areas of improvement by the DEA:

- **Restore a \$300,000 budget cut to Arizona's DEA Offices.** In the past 10 years, the DEA's national budget has increased by 12%, yet it is my understanding that the DEA in Arizona had its budget cut by \$300,000 last year. At a minimum, the \$300,000 budget cut to the DEA in Arizona must be restored.
- **Add at least 50 agents to Arizona.** For the past five years, about 60% of the fentanyl seized in the United States was seized in Arizona, but there are more agents in New York and Miami than Arizona. The DEA needs to allocate resources to where the Mexican cartels operate—Arizona. To that end, the DEA in Arizona needs at least 50 more agents to fight fentanyl trafficking.
- **Support High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) Program Funding Increases.** Because there are not enough DEA agents, drug trafficking interdiction in Arizona is dependent on law enforcement task forces, many which are led by HIDTA. Arizona Senator Mark Kelly has proposed bipartisan legislation to restore HIDTA funding to \$333 million. DEA's support of that effort is critical to fighting fentanyl trafficking in Arizona.
- **Restore Positions Lost Due to DOGE.** As a result of the Elon Musk's "Fork in the Road" email, the DEA in Arizona has lost critical staff that has not been replaced. Arizona needs more DEA agents and support staff, not less. These positions must be restored immediately.

I appreciated your commitment to doing all you could to support DEA operations and the HIDTA mission in Arizona. With nearly 300 Americans dying each day from drug overdoses -- and fentanyl estimated to account for nearly 70% of those deaths, your support is critical. We can save lives by dedicating more resources to fighting the Mexican cartels here in Arizona. I have mobilized my Office's resources to stop the fentanyl crisis, and I expect a similar response from the federal government. The DEA must allocate more resources to Arizona to stop the flow of fentanyl before it continues to spread to Arizona communities and communities across the United States.

Respectfully,



Kris Mayes
Arizona Attorney General