



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF POLICE ORGANIZATIONS, INC.

*Representing America's Finest*

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March 10, 2015

The Honorable Patti B. Saris  
Chair

United States Sentencing Commission  
One Columbus Circle, N.E.  
Suite 2-500  
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002

Dear Chair Saris:

On behalf of the National Association of Police Organizations (NAPO), I write to you to urge that you increase penalties for those who candy or flavor a drug to appeal to minors.

NAPO is a coalition of police unions and associations from across the United States that serves to advance the interests of America's law enforcement through legislative and legal advocacy, political action, and education. Founded in 1978, NAPO now represents more than 1,000 police units and associations, 241,000 sworn law enforcement officers, and more than 100,000 citizens who share a common dedication to fair and effective crime control and law enforcement.

The sentencing guidelines must be amended to increase penalties for drug offenders who candy or flavor an illegal drug in order to entice minors to purchase that drug product. Candied and flavored drugs are more harmful than other drugs, as they lead children to believe that the drug product is not actually a drug or not as potent as a non-candied/flavored drug. Criminals use these misconceptions to lure minors, and put our children in harm's way.

It is critical that stricter penalties are established for criminals who target minors. Current federal drug laws do not provide sufficient disincentive to dealers who are manufacturing or distributing these candied and flavored drugs—hence, the need for the guidelines to be adjusted to provide a penalty specifically for those individuals who candy or flavor a drug to appeal to minors. Stricter penalties will help to deter this dangerous practice.

Increasing penalties on drug dealers who target the most vulnerable populations will send a strong and clear message to drug dealers – if you flavor or candy your drugs to try to entice children, there will be a very heavy price to pay. This penalty will help to stop drug dealers from engaging in these activities, and punish them appropriately if they do not.

We urge you to consider our views as you consider amending the sentencing guidelines.  
If we can provide any additional information, please feel free to contact me at: (703)  
549-0775.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Johnson", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

William J. Johnson  
Executive Director