



WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Conserving the Peace Through Values Driven Service
Sheriff Pat Garrett

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,

My name is Christopher Schweigert, and I am a Detective Sergeant employed by the Washington County Sheriff's Office, in Hillsboro, Oregon. I supervise a HIDTA Narcotics Task Force on the west side of Portland, Oregon comprised of local law enforcement officers, as well as Special Agents from the FBI, HSI, and DEA. I have been a police officer for 20 years and have worked specifically in narcotics for the last 12.

I am writing you to urge the Sentencing Commission to examine amending the sentencing guidelines to increase penalties for offenders who flavor, color, or otherwise intentionally market a controlled substance in order to increase appeal to children.

Most of the harder controlled substances that my team encounters are highly addictive, both psychologically and physiologically. Drug Trafficking Organizations have historically targeted minors as customers, knowing that the potential for a long term customer is greater if they hook a kid.

Medical research suggests that most of these strong street drugs also pose a significant risk of causing irreversible damage to the developing adolescent brain. In those instances, even if the child does not become dependent on the drug he or she tries, they face a higher risk of developing physical and neurological disorders that may stay with them forever.

My team has encountered Gummy Bears that were laced with Xanax, specifically to be sold to minors. We have encountered a wide variety of THC infused products that are manufactured to resemble candies and treats popular with children.

Drug dealers cultivating young clientele as a business model, is particularly heinous. Because of this increased risk to our youth, I urge the Sentencing Commission to consider increased penalties for persons found to be altering a controlled substance to increase that drug's appeal to children.

Sincerely,

Christopher J. Schweigert Sgt.
Washington County Sheriff's Office
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