

March 9, 2015

The Honorable Patti B. Saris
Chairwoman
United States Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Suite 2-500
Washington, DC 20002-8002

Dear Chairwoman Saris:

I am writing this letter on behalf of the National HIDTA Directors Association to emphasize the need to amend the sentencing guidelines to increase penalties for drug offenders who flavor or market a controlled substance in a deliberate attempt to lure children to purchase a dangerous drug product.

Law enforcement officials across the nation continue to witness incidents in which illegal drugs are being colored, packaged, and flavored in ways designed to attract children and other minors. Discovery and seizure by law enforcement of a strawberry flavored drink mix version of methamphetamine called "strawberry quick", or THC-laden soft drinks labeled "Dr. Feelgood" and "Root Buzz", scores of marijuana infused candy, cookies and brownies, as well as cocaine flavored with strawberry, lemon, cinnamon and coconut are but a few examples of this serious and dangerous problem.

The unconscionable marketing technique of flavoring drugs to appeal to minors is especially harmful because it deceives the young customer into believing that he or she is not actually ingesting a drug, or at least that the drug is less dangerous, less addictive, or less potent than non-flavored drugs.

Under current federal drug law, there are no enhanced penalties for altering controlled substances to make drugs more appealing to youth. Amending the sentencing guidelines to increase the penalties for those who flavor or color a drug to entice our children is required to help stop drug dealers from engaging in this practice, and punish them appropriately if they do not.

The National HIDTA Directors Association maintains that there must be a strong and clear message to drug dealers that marketing drugs to our children will have steep consequences.

Thank you for consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



Thomas J. Gorman
President