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March 16, 2015

The Honorable Patti B. Saris, Chair
United States Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, NE
Suite 2-500, South Lobby
Washington, D.C. 20002

Dear Judge Saris:

I am writing on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs, representing the 67 largest metropolitan law enforcement agencies in the Nation, to inform you of our strong support for increased penalties for those who candy or flavor a drug in order to appeal to minors.

As the front-line officers in our Nation's largest cities, we see firsthand the damage of drug-related crimes. In recent years, our concern regarding drug traffickers who market illegal drugs to children by coloring and flavoring their drugs to make them attractive to young people has grown. Important steps need to be taken to address this troubling issue and protect young and vulnerable lives from the crippling effects of drugs.

Current federal drug laws do not provide sufficient disincentives 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 attempt to target marketing gimmicks towards minors.

On behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs, thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important issue. We take the threat of targeted attempts to take advantage of our youth seriously and we look forward to increased guidance from the Commission.

Sincerely,

Chief J. Thomas Manger
Montgomery County Police Department
President
Major Cities Chiefs Association