



NATIONAL DISTRICT
ATTORNEYS ASSOCIATION
THE VOICE OF AMERICA'S PROSECUTORS

The Honorable Chuck Grassley
U.S. Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
U.S. Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

March 9, 2026

Dear Senators Grassley and Cortez Masto:

On behalf of the National District Attorneys Association (NDAA), I write to express our strong support of S.545/H.R.1266, the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act. The passage of this legislation would assist prosecutors and law enforcement in curbing the spread and misuse of Xylazine.

NDAA is the oldest and largest national organization representing state and local prosecutors in the nation. NDAA is a non-partisan, non-profit membership association that provides training, technical assistance, and resources to prosecutors to aid in their pursuit of justice. With over seven-thousand members, NDAA's mission is to be the voice of America's prosecutors and to support their efforts to protect the rights of individuals and the safety of communities.

Prosecutors across the country are facing an unprecedented rise in overdose deaths linked to Xylazine. Currently, Xylazine is an unscheduled tranquilizer increasingly found in combination with fentanyl and other illicit opioids. While Naloxone reverses the effect of opioids and will not cause harm if opioids are not involved in the overdose, Naloxone does not diffuse Xylazine's impact on the individual, which can lead to devastating consequences.

This emerging threat is overwhelming local communities, complicating overdose responses, and undermining public safety. The lack of medical coroner reporting and overall data on Xylazine compounds the struggle against it, as we don't have the knowledge and information we traditionally do when combating other illicit drugs.

Xylazine is currently not scheduled under the Controlled Substances Act, which allows drug traffickers to exploit this gap and incorporate it into opioids and other drug mixtures. The absence of federal framework on Xylazine has severely limited data collection, hindered investigations and stifled coordinated responses. S.545/H.R.1266 provides law enforcement, prosecutors, and medical examiners with the tools to close these gaps.

By scheduling illicit Xylazine on the Controlled Substances Act, while preserving its legitimate uses, the bill strikes the appropriate balance between public safety and scientific needs. The legislation also establishes reporting requirements, enhances tracking of Xylazine-related

overdoses, and supports interagency collaboration. In order to properly address Xylazine abuse, we first need data and knowledge around the trafficking and use of the drug. The measures in the Combating Illicit Xylazine Act are critical for understanding and disrupting the Xylazine supply chain.

NDAA appreciates your leadership in addressing this urgent and emerging threat. We stand ready to work with Congress and our federal, state, and local partners to ensure that communities have the resources and legal framework needed to combat the spread of Xylazine. Thank you for your commitment to protecting public safety.

Sincerely,

Nelson O. Bunn, Jr.

Nelson Bunn
Executive Director
National District Attorneys Association