

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2148

To amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to increase public awareness about the dangers of synthetic drugs through the national youth antidrug media campaign.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 23, 2013

Mr. CARSON of Indiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 to increase public awareness about the dangers of synthetic drugs through the national youth antidrug media campaign.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Synthetics are Dan-
5 gerous Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Synthetic drugs, sometimes referred to as
2 designer drugs, are chemical compounds produced in
3 clandestine laboratories to mimic or enhance the ef-
4 fects of schedule I controlled substances such as
5 methamphetamine, ecstasy, and marijuana.

6 (2) Given the lack of extensive medical research
7 on many synthetic drugs and their various ana-
8 logues, the full scope of their harmful effects is not
9 well understood.

10 (3) The circumstantial evidence of the harmful
11 effects of synthetic drugs, particularly synthetic
12 cannabinoids (such as “K2” and “spice”) and syn-
13 thetic stimulants (such as “bath salts”) are, never-
14 theless, alarming—

15 (A) in 2010, more than 11,000 individuals
16 were admitted into the emergency room from
17 complications arising from synthetic drug use,
18 and nearly 25 percent of those patients re-
19 quired further medical treatment; and

20 (B) in 2011, the American Association of
21 Poison Control Centers reported more than a
22 two-fold increase in the number of calls related
23 to synthetic marijuana from the previous year.

24 (4) The harmful effects of ingesting synthetic
25 drugs include but are not limited to agitation, anx-

1 iety, nausea, vomiting, tachycardia, elevated blood
2 pressure, tremor, seizures, hallucinations, paranoid
3 behavior, and nonresponsiveness.

4 (5) Like all schedule I drugs, these synthetic
5 drugs are drugs that have a high potential for abuse,
6 have no medical use in the United States, and lack
7 an accepted safe use.

8 (6) The passage of the Synthetic Drug Abuse
9 Prevention Act of 2012 was an important step in re-
10 ducing the access of teens and young adults to dan-
11 gerous and addictive synthetic drugs.

12 (7) New synthetic drugs are being manufac-
13 tured that contain chemical compounds not found on
14 schedule I, as set forth in section 202(c) of the Con-
15 trolled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 812(c)), that nev-
16 ertheless mimic or enhance the effects of controlled
17 substances like methamphetamine, marijuana, ec-
18 stasy, and LSD.

19 (8) Hundreds, potentially thousands, of teens
20 and young adults will be admitted into emergency
21 rooms around the country from complications caused
22 by the ingestion of the next breed of harmful, syn-
23 thetic drugs.

24 (9) It is the sense of the Congress that there
25 is an urgent need, particularly among teens, young

1 adults, and parents, to raise awareness about the
2 dangers of these new synthetic drugs.

3 **SEC. 3. INCREASING PUBLIC AWARENESS OF DANGERS OF**
4 **SYNTHETIC DRUGS THROUGH NATIONAL**
5 **YOUTH ANTIDRUG MEDIA CAMPAIGN.**

6 Section 709 of the Office of National Drug Control
7 Policy Reauthorization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1708) is
8 amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by inserting “and syn-
10 thetic drug use” after “illegal drug use”; and

11 (2) by redesignating subsection (l) as subsection
12 (m) and inserting after subsection (k) the following
13 new subsection:

14 “(l) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

15 “(1) DRUG.—The term ‘drug’ has the meaning
16 given such term in section 702(3) and includes a
17 synthetic drug.

18 “(2) SYNTHETIC DRUG.—The term ‘synthetic
19 drug’ means an artificially produced substance that,
20 as determined by the Director, is an analog or deriv-
21 ative of a controlled substance (as defined in section
22 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C.
23 802(6)), but is not itself a controlled substance.”.

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