

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2616

To establish a National Center to Stop the Import of Illicit Synthetic Drugs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 13, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN (for herself and Mrs. BEATTY) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To establish a National Center to Stop the Import of Illicit
Synthetic Drugs.

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 “Stop the Import of
5 Fentanyl Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. NATIONAL CENTER TO STOP THE IMPORT OF ILLICIT**
7 **SYNTHETIC DRUGS.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is within the Drug En-
9 forcement Administration a National Center to Stop the
10 Import of Illicit Synthetic Drugs (hereinafter referred to
11 as the “National Center”).

1 (b) DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL CENTER TO STOP THE
2 IMPORT OF ILLICIT SYNTHETIC DRUGS.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is a Director of the
4 National Center, who shall be the head of the Na-
5 tional Center, and who shall be appointed by the
6 President, by and with the advice and consent of the
7 Senate.

8 (2) NO SIMULTANEOUS APPOINTMENT.—The
9 Director of the National Center may not simulta-
10 neously serve in any other capacity in the executive
11 branch.

12 (c) REPORT AND BRIEFING REQUIRED.—

13 (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 90
14 days after date of enactment of this Act, and annu-
15 ally thereafter, the Director of the National Center
16 shall submit to the Administrator of the Drug En-
17 forcement Administration a report including—

18 (A) an overview of how synthetic drugs
19 come into the United States;

20 (B) a strategic plan of action on each of
21 its primary missions under subsection (d); and

22 (C) identification of necessary resources
23 from agencies and Congress to accomplish the
24 primary missions under subsection (d).

1 (2) BRIEF REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
2 after date of enactment of this Act, and annually
3 thereafter, the Director of the National Center shall
4 provide a brief to Congress on the report required
5 under paragraph (1).

6 (d) PRIMARY MISSIONS.—The primary missions of
7 the National Center shall be as follows:

8 (1) To serve as the primary organization in the
9 United States Government for analyzing, tracking,
10 and halting the movement of synthetic drugs domes-
11 tically, particularly as it relates to the trafficking of
12 fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, and precursor chemi-
13 cals to produce fentanyl.

14 (2) To serve as the primary organization in the
15 United States Government for tracking the move-
16 ments of persons trafficking in the synthetic drug
17 trade in the United States and overseas through in-
18 telligence gathering, in cooperation with other agen-
19 cies, including:

20 (A) The Drug Enforcement Administra-
21 tion.

22 (B) The Department of Justice.

23 (C) The Department of State.

24 (D) The Federal Bureau of Investigations.

25 (E) The Internal Revenue Service.

1 (F) The Department of the Treasury.

2 (G) The National Security Agency.

3 (H) The Central Intelligence Agency.

4 (I) The United States Postal Service.

5 (J) The Department of Homeland Security.
6

7 (K) The United States Customs and Border Patrol.
8

9 (L) The Office of National Drug Control
10 Policy.

11 (M) The Office of the Director of National
12 Intelligence.

13 (3) To collect and share information with the
14 agencies identified under paragraph (2) to identify
15 and disrupt the movement of fentanyl from an original
16 source to a consumer.

17 (4) To develop a strategic plan to lead agencies,
18 as appropriate, in the execution of efforts to break
19 up the synthetic drug trade, including assigning
20 roles and responsibilities to such agencies.

21 (5) To ensure that agencies, as appropriate,
22 have access to and receive information from other
23 agencies, needed to execute their efforts to break up
24 the synthetic drug trade or perform independent, alternative
25 analysis of the synthetic drug trade.

1 (6) To ensure that agencies have access to and
2 receive intelligence needed to accomplish any activi-
3 ties assigned to such agency pursuant to this sub-
4 section.

5 (7) To serve as the central and shared knowl-
6 edge bank on known and suspected drug trafficking
7 organizations, both foreign and domestic, including
8 such organization's strategies, capabilities, and net-
9 works of contacts and support.

10 (8) To trace the sale proceeds of the synthetic
11 drug trade, to identify the interests of drug traf-
12 ficking organizations and persons trafficking in the
13 synthetic drug trade and reveal any network that fa-
14 cilities such trade.

15 (e) DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF DIRECTOR.—

16 The Director shall:

17 (1) Serve in the President's cabinet as the prin-
18 cipal advisor to the President on the synthetic drug
19 trade.

20 (2) Provide strategic operational plans for ef-
21 forts of the United States Government to effectively
22 break up the synthetic drug trade, both foreign and
23 domestic.

1 (3) Advise the Secretary of State on intelligence
2 gathered related to the synthetic drug trade in for-
3 eign countries.

4 (4) Support relevant agencies in their efforts to
5 break up the synthetic drug trade.

6 (5) Testify before the appropriate Congressional
7 committees annually.

8 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
9 shall be construed to limit the action of any person acting
10 in compliance with State law relating to the manufacture,
11 production, possession, distribution, dispensation, admin-
12 istration, or delivery of cannabis.

13 (g) SUNSET.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The National Center shall
15 terminate on the date that is five years after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act.

17 (2) ADDITIONAL TIME PERIOD.—The President
18 may authorize the National Center to operate for an
19 additional two years after the date of termination
20 under paragraph (1).

21 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” shall have
23 the meaning given such term in section 551 of title
24 5, United States Code.

1 (2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
2 TEES.—The term “appropriate Congressional com-
3 mittees” means the—

4 (A) Financial Services Committee of the
5 House of Representatives;

6 (B) Committee on Energy and Commerce
7 of the House of Representatives;

8 (C) Committee on Foreign Affairs of the
9 House of Representatives; and

10 (D) Committee on Homeland Security of
11 the House of Representatives.

12 (3) DRUG TRAFFICKING ORGANIZATION.—The
13 term “drug trafficking organization” means a com-
14 plex organization with highly defined command-and-
15 control structures that produce, transport, or dis-
16 tribute large quantities of one or more synthetic
17 drugs.

18 (4) PERSONS TRAFFICKING IN THE SYNTHETIC
19 DRUG TRADE.—The term “persons trafficking in the
20 synthetic drug trade” means a person that plays a
21 role in the synthetic drug trade.

22 (5) SYNTHETIC DRUG TRADE.—The term “syn-
23 thetic drug trade” means any illicit activity to cul-
24 tivate, produce, manufacture, distribute, sell, fi-
25 nance, or transport synthetic drugs, or otherwise en-

- 1 deavor or attempt to do so, or to assist, abet, con-
- 2 spire, or collude with others to do so.

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