

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5546

To authorize the use of certain Department of Defense funds for combating opioid trafficking and abuse in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 18, 2018

Mr. KNIGHT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize the use of certain Department of Defense funds for combating opioid trafficking and abuse in the United States.

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. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

4 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
5 ings:

6 (1) Over the past 15 years, the rise in opioid
7 use in the United States has grown exponentially.

8 (2) According to the Office of National Drug
9 Control Policy, the number of deaths related to
10 opioids in the United States in 2016 was 42,269.

1 (3) Addiction and misuse of prescription opioids
2 continues to rise. According to the Office of National
3 Drug Control Policy, in 2016, 11.5 million people
4 misused prescription opioids.

5 (4) The predominant amount of precursors for
6 fentanyl production are illicit trafficked from China.

7 (5) The Office of National Drug Control Policy
8 is the lead agency for confronting the epidemic of
9 opioid addiction and trafficking in the United
10 States.

11 (6) The Department of Homeland Security is
12 the lead agency in securing United States borders
13 from illicit trafficking.

14 (7) The Department of Defense plays a vital
15 supporting role in addressing the illicit nature of the
16 opioid epidemic through intelligence analysis, edu-
17 cation, and assistance to other departments and
18 agencies in dealing with this challenge.

19 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
20 gress that—

21 (1) the Department of Defense should provide
22 support for interagency efforts to combat the na-
23 tional opioid epidemic; and

24 (2) the role of the Department of Defense is
25 critical to identifying transnational criminal organi-

1 zations that allow illicit opioids to enter the United
2 States.

3 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SUPPORT FOR COM-**
4 **BATING OPIOID TRAFFICKING AND ABUSE.**

5 Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated for the
6 Department of Defense for National Guard counterdrug
7 programs for fiscal year 2019, \$20,000,000 may be used
8 to provide support for United States interagency efforts
9 to combat opioid trafficking and abuse in the United
10 States.

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