

KING) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1151, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a non-refundable credit for working family caregivers.

S. 1169

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1169, a bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to provide States with an option to provide medical assistance to individuals between the ages of 22 and 64 for inpatient services to treat substance use disorders at certain facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1202

At the request of Mr. COTTON, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1202, a bill to modify the boundary of the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, and for other purposes.

S. 1277

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1277, a bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a high technology education pilot program, and for other purposes.

S. 1309

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1309, a bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to permit American Indian tribal councils to enter into agreements with the Commissioner of Social Security to obtain social security coverage for services performed by tribal council members.

S. RES. 54

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 54, a resolution expressing the unwavering commitment of the United States to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself and Mrs. FEINSTEIN):

S. 1327. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to clarify how controlled substance analogues are to be regulated, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues Act with my colleague Senator CHUCK GRASSLEY. This legislation addresses the significant challenges associated with prosecuting those who manufacture and traffic deadly synthetic drugs, including synthetic opioids, like clandestinely produced fentanyl, and synthetic cannabinoids and cathinones.

Synthetic drugs pose an increasing threat to our Nation. They hit our

communities in cycles and cause devastation. For example, in Corpus Christi, TX, there were 31 EMS calls in 1 day related to synthetic drugs. In Syracuse, NY, 18 individuals were taken to the emergency room in a 24-hour period after taking synthetic marijuana, and in Cincinnati, OH, a shocking 174 overdoses occurred over 6 days. These overdoses were largely attributed to heroin laced with carfentanil, a synthetic opioid that is 100,000 times stronger than morphine.

In 2012, Congress outlawed many synthetic drugs, but manufacturers did not stop producing them. Instead, they began producing controlled substance analogues which mimic the effects of controlled substances, such as opioids, marijuana, PCP, and LSD.

The new drug, even though it has an effect on the body that is similar to a controlled substance, may no longer be illegal under Federal law because it is not listed in one of the five schedules of the Controlled Substances Act. Consequently, these drugs are shipped to our country and marketed as legal alternatives to illegal drugs.

This makes enforcement efforts difficult.

Synthetic opioids, like fentanyl, are deadly. Since 2015, 130 deaths have been linked to the drug in the Bay area of California. Nationally, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that more than 15,000 deaths in 2015 involved synthetic opioids other than methadone, which includes fentanyl. That is equivalent to 42 deaths per day.

Like other synthetic drugs, illicit fentanyl and its analogues are clandestinely produced, and primarily enter the United States in one of three ways:

(1) Chinese chemists produce and ship it to the United States via international mail;

(2) Mexican drug traffickers produce it with precursor chemicals from China and smuggle it across the Southwest Border; or

(3) Chinese chemists produce and ship it to Canada, where it is smuggled across the northern border.

The point is, regardless of the type, synthetic drugs pose a deadly and quickly evolving public health threat.

It is clear that the current system for scheduling controlled substances and prosecuting controlled substance analogues is not able to keep up with the speed with which new synthetic drugs are produced or to prevent the deaths they cause.

That is why the Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Drugs Act to provide the Department of Justice with new tools, using a multifaceted approach.

First, the bill immediately controls 13 fentanyl analogues that law enforcement has come into contact with. These substances have already caused 162 overdose deaths in the United States.

Second, while the existing Federal Analogue Enforcement Act allows prosecutors to charge those who manufac-

ture, distribute, or dispense controlled substance analogues, the law contains definition of a controlled substance analogue that is vague and often misinterpreted. As a result, court cases using this law result in a drawn out and expensive battle of the experts.

Moreover, because controlled substance analogues are not listed as federally controlled substances, even if a prosecutor in one case successfully proves that a substance is a controlled substance analogue, this ruling is not applied across the board. A different person charged with manufacturing the exact same substance in another case is not automatically guilty of a crime. Instead, the prosecutor in the new case has to reprove that the substance in question is an analogue all over again.

Therefore, to ensure that prosecutors do not have to reprove that a substance is an analogue each and every time it appears, the bill establishes a new schedule A.

The legislation authorizes the Attorney General to add new synthetic drugs, including fentanyl and other analogues, to this new schedule, and make them illegal through an expedited, temporary scheduling process.

It also authorizes the Attorney General to permanently schedule these substances, either in schedule A or in another schedule, like schedule I. This provides the Attorney General with the maximum flexibility needed to better combat these dangerous drugs.

Those found guilty of manufacturing, distributing, or dispensing schedule A substances would be subject to existing schedule III penalties, or a maximum of 10 years imprisonment for a first offense.

The Department of Justice has told my staff that this approach will allow them to act quickly when new and dangerous substances threaten our communities.

Recognizing that the vast majority of synthetic drugs originate from outside of the United States, the legislation imposes criminal penalties for the illegal import and export of substances designated as schedule A. It also authorizes penalties for those who manufacture or distribute these substances while intending, knowing, or having reasonable cause to believe they will ultimately be imported into the United States.

Third, the bill maintains the ability of prosecutors to charge defendants using the Federal Analogue Enforcement Act, but clarifies the definition of a controlled substance analogue within the Act.

Specifically, the language clarifies that the chemical structure of the substance must be similar to that of schedule I or II controlled substance to be considered a controlled substance analogue. On top of this, the substance must also have a stimulant, depressant or hallucinogenic effect on the body that is similar to a schedule I or II controlled substance or the person manufacturing, distributing or dispensing

the drug must represent or intend for the drug to have an effect that is similar to a schedule I or II controlled substance.

If prosecutors successfully prove a substance is a controlled substance analogue under the new definition, those who traffic the drug could face higher penalties than those assigned to schedule A, because the penalty would be associated with the drug it mimics.

Finally, those trafficking these substances do not market them as synthetic drugs. Instead, they mislabel the products, which are often sold at gas stations and convenience stores. To prevent this from happening, the bill requires all schedule A substances to be properly labeled and establishes civil penalties for failure to do so.

This provision will allow civil enforcement action to be taken to remove mislabeled products from the shelves of gas stations and convenience stores.

I want to close by sharing the story of one of my constituents, a young man named Connor Eckhardt. Unfortunately, a synthetic drug known as Spice claimed his life. Connor took one hit of the drug, which, according to the Drug Enforcement Administration, is a mixture of herbs and spices that is typically sprayed with a synthetic compound chemically similar to THC, the psychoactive ingredient in marijuana. His brain swelled, causing him to go into a coma, and he never woke up.

Sadly, Connor's story has become all too common. And this is unacceptable. That is why I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of the Stop the Importation and Trafficking of Synthetic Analogues Act. Law enforcement must have the ability to swiftly bring those who manufacture, distribute, and dispense these deadly drugs to justice.

I look forward to working with and obtaining feedback from my colleagues and other stakeholders on this bill, which provides new and necessary authorities to combat synthetic drugs.

By Mr. Kaine (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. WARREN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. FRANKEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, and Mr. BROWN):

S. 1328. A bill to extend the protections of the Fair Housing Act to persons suffering discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Kaine. Mr. President, today, I am introducing the Fair and Equal Housing Act of 2017, legislation to ensure equal housing opportunities for all Americans. This bill would protect Americans from housing discrimination based on gender identity and sexual orientation. No American should be turned away from a home they love because of who they love.

I am a former civil rights attorney. And during my practice, I focused on fair housing and I learned that a home is more than just a door, a roof, rooms, and walls. Your home is critical to your identity and central to the life of every American.

And a home becomes even more important when you are searching for a safe, stable place to live. But, say you run into problems as you're trying to rent that dream apartment and it is not because you are not a good tenant or a good neighbor. Instead, you learn that the apartment you wanted is suddenly no longer available because, after you met the landlord in person, they don't approve of your personal life or your appearance. Or you learn your rental application cannot be processed because you and your partner share the same sex.

Housing discrimination is real. And it is a reality for LGBT Americans because of incomplete protections in the Fair Housing Act (FHA), the landmark federal housing law. The FHA only prohibits housing discrimination based on race, color, religion, national origin, sex, familial status, or disability. And if someone thinks this is not a real problem, more than 20 states and over 200 localities protect sexual orientation and gender identity in their own housing discrimination statutes.

This is about equality, plain and simple. I want to thank my fellow Virginian, Representative SCOTT TAYLOR, for his leadership on this issue. I also want to thank all the civil rights attorneys across the nation who fight for justice on this issue every day. This is the right thing to do.

By Mr. Wyden (for himself and Mr. Merkley):

S.J. Res. 45. A joint resolution condemning the deadly attack on May 26, 2017, in Portland, Oregon, expressing deepest condolences to the families and friends of the victims, and supporting efforts to overcome hatred, bigotry, and violence; considered and passed.

S.J. RES. 45

Whereas, on May 26, 2017, 3 brave community members—Rick Best, Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche, and Micah David-Cole Fletcher—were stabbed as they protected 2 young women who were the targets of threatening anti-Muslim hate speech while riding on the Metropolitan Area Express Light Rail (commonly known as the “MAX”) in Portland, Oregon;

Whereas Rick Best and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche lost their lives and Micah David-Cole Fletcher was gravely injured as a result of the attack;

Whereas acts of heroism and sacrifice for the safety and sake of others in the face of acts of domestic terrorism were demonstrated by the deceased and surviving victims;

Whereas Oregonians and people across the United States grieve for the families of all people affected by this needless tragedy; and

Whereas the people of the United States stand in solidarity against terrorism, white supremacy, hate, and intolerance: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That Congress—

(1) condemns the deadly attack on May 26, 2017, in Portland, Oregon, in which 2 innocent people were killed and 1 other person was injured while standing up to hate and intolerance;

(2) offers deepest condolences to the families and friends of Rick Best and Taliesin Myrddin Namkai-Meche;

(3) expresses hope for the swift and complete recovery of Micah David-Cole Fletcher;

(4) supports community efforts to heal from this terrible crime; and

(5) supports nationwide efforts to overcome hatred, bigotry, and violence.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 188—CONDEMNING THE RECENT TERRORIST ATTACKS IN THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE PHILIPPINES, INDONESIA, EGYPT, IRAQ, AUSTRALIA, AND IRAN AND OFFERING THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS AND SINCERE CONDOLENCES TO ALL OF THE VICTIMS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE PEOPLE OF THEIR COUNTRIES

Mr. CORKER (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 188

Whereas since May 22, 2017, the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS) has claimed responsibility for multiple terrorist attacks against civilians that have left more than 180 dead and many more wounded.

Whereas ISIS frequently claims attacks perpetrated by individual actors or other groups for propaganda purposes.

Whereas the people of the United Kingdom are grieving following two terrorist attacks claimed by ISIS in London on June 4 and Manchester on May 22 that targeted and killed innocent men, women, and children.

Whereas government forces in the Philippines are currently fighting ISIS militants in Mindanao, including ISIS-affiliated fighters from the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Chechnya, Saudi Arabia, and Yemen, who launched an assault in Marawi City on May 23 in an apparent effort to establish a caliphate in Southeast Asia.

Whereas ISIS has claimed responsibility for two explosions in Jakarta, Indonesia, killing three policemen.

Whereas ISIS targeted Coptic Christians in Egypt during an attack on a bus on May 26, killing 29 people.

Whereas 22 people were killed when ISIS detonated a car bomb at a Baghdad ice cream parlor, killing Iraqi families gathering with their children to break the Ramadan fast, and then detonated a second bomb killing elderly Iraqis collecting their pensions.

Whereas a terrorist attack claimed by ISIS killed one person in Melbourne, Australia and wounded three police officers.

Whereas on June 7, in an attack claimed by ISIS, at least 12 people were killed when gunmen and suicide bombers targeted Iran's parliament and a shrine in two coordinated attacks across Tehran.

Whereas these reprehensible attacks have no place in a peaceful world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns ISIS' horrific terrorist attacks in the United Kingdom, the Philippines, Indonesia, Egypt, Iraq, Australia, and Iran;