

While there are no quick or easy solutions to this epidemic, H.R. 3722 is a step in the right direction. I support this bill, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3722, the Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act of 2019.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of a public health emergency that has devastated communities across the country, including in my home State of Rhode Island.

No matter your race, gender, age, or religion, Americans are suffering from the opioid overdose epidemic. In 2017, approximately 47,600 fatalities were attributed to opioid overdose.

Fentanyl is exacerbating the problem. This powerful, synthetic opioid, 25 to 50 times stronger than heroin and 50 to 100 times more powerful than morphine, caused more than 15 times more deaths in 2017 than in 2009.

The majority of opioids interdicted by the United States law enforcement agencies are seized at ports of entry. In fact, the southern border accounts for at least 75 percent of all opioids collected.

I am pleased to offer a solution with my colleagues, Mr. KING from New York, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. McCaul, that will strengthen the Department of Homeland Security's fight against the drug crisis.

This bill authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a task force to enhance the internal integration of the Department's border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, including fentanyl, from entering the United States in the first place.

Secretary Johnson was the first to use the joint task force model to achieve better unity of effort across the Department's components.

All of DHS' many agencies, from Customs and Border Protection to the United States Coast Guard, have an important role to play when it comes to combating opioid trafficking. So if the Homeland Security investigations are looking into a fentanyl distribution ring, for example, in Omaha, they need to coordinate efforts with Customs offices in El Paso so that packages en route to Nebraska are properly interdicted.

The JTF model is intended to ensure this coordination is baked into the culture of DHS so that cases don't slip through the cracks. Congress recognized the value of Secretary Johnson's pilot JTFs when we formally authorized them in 2016.

As new challenges confront the Department, we must make use of this organizational structure in innovative ways to maintain the synergies that

drove the creation of DHS in the first place.

Stopping proliferation of fentanyl is particularly well-suited to the JTF approach. Unlike many more traditional narcotics, fentanyl is often shipped directly to dealers from overseas. Fentanyl's extremely high potency allows these shipments to be small enough to go undetected unless carefully scrutinized. That is why it is essential that the joint task force on opioids collaborate with private-sector organizations and any other Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, or international entity to increase operational effectiveness, coordination, and information sharing.

We need to work with partners, especially the United States Postal Service and private parcel delivery services like UPS and FedEx to ensure suspicious packages are inspected. Having a single task force coordinating the Department's efforts makes it much easier for other organizations to know whom to call.

So this crisis gripping our Nation is, obviously, very complex. We cannot succeed in stemming the opioid epidemic unless the Federal Government recognizes the opportunity to integrate and collaborate—not only across agencies, but also with our private-sector partners.

So like every bill that makes its way to the floor, this legislation is a result, of course, of a collaborative effort. I have to begin by thanking former Senator Claire McCaskill, who has been a true champion in driving policy to address the opioid crisis and who first proposed applying the JTF model to this epidemic.

I must also thank my good friend, longtime colleague on the committee, and cosponsor, Congressman PETER KING, who is helping ensure that this effort is a bipartisan one; Mr. McCaul, who helped get this bill to the last Congress; and, of course, Mr. ROSE, who has been a real champion in helping to combat the opioid crisis and who has had an immediate impact fighting opioids since he came to Congress earlier this year.

I am grateful also to Chairman THOMPSON for his continued leadership on using all of the powers of DHS to combat this epidemic.

Like anything we do, nothing would have been possible, of course, without tireless staff work, and particularly that of Rosaline Cohen and Alex Carnes with the committee; my legislative director, Nick Leiserson; and also Elyssa Malin, a former staffer in my office.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the additional time.

As I said before, the opioid epidemic is increasingly complex, with a number of factors driving the tragic increases

in overdose. There is no silver bullet; rather, we need a whole-of-society approach. This bill will bring that unity of effort to the Department of Homeland Security so that it can be a more effective partner in turning the tide against opioid abuse.

I hope all of my colleagues will join me in supporting the creation of a joint task force on opioids and support this bill.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers for the bill. I renew my support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, our country faces a severe and ongoing crisis, with newly developed synthetic opioids causing tremendous suffering to our families, individuals, and entire communities throughout the country. The collaboration between private companies and the government that will be possible through this legislation will prove to be a crucial component in the task of stopping the flow of fentanyl across our borders.

H.R. 3722 is a bipartisan and targeted solution to address this most urgent need. I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3722.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

TRAVELING PARENTS SCREENING CONSISTENCY ACT OF 2019

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3246) to require GAO review of certain TSA screening protocols, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3246

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Traveling Parents Screening Consistency Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) implementation of the Bottles and Breastfeeding Equipment Screening Act (Public Law 114-293), as well as the effectiveness of TSA in ensuring screening protocol clarity and screening consistency relating to the screening of formula,

breast milk, purified deionized water for infants, and juice. Such review shall include the following:

(1) Consider whether TSA effectively manages consistency of screening protocol applications for formula, breastmilk, purified deionized water for infants, and juice, including the extent to which Transportation Security officers engage in screening beyond that which is prescribed through relevant policies and training.

(2) Evaluate the need for TSA to update and revise procedures for such screening.

(3) Assess whether TSA effectively tracks passenger complaints related to such screening to monitor trends and identify inconsistencies.

(4) Evaluate TSA's communications and information sharing practices for passengers, air carriers, and airports relating to screening protocols for such screening.

(5) Evaluate TSA's policies regarding the screening of passengers with nursing products, including the extent to which such passengers are more likely to receive secondary screening.

(6) Make recommendations for improving TSA's overall screening practices relating to such screening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3246, the Traveling Parents Screening Consistency Act.

The stress of traveling through our airport checkpoints is very familiar to all of us. This experience can be especially burdensome on parents traveling with children. Too often, these families aren't given clear direction and guidance on how to ensure that they meet TSA guidelines while bringing baby supplies and nursing products through the screening process.

Parents across the country are often left confused and inconvenienced as they encounter different interpretations of TSA's policies at different airports. In some cases, parents have discarded expensive baby formula and other items after being instructed that such items cannot be brought through security when, in fact, they are allowed under TSA policy.

TSA must do better for these families by creating commonsense policies and clearly communicating with them to ensure parents are able to properly care for their children while traveling.

H.R. 3246, provides more certainty and protections to parents traveling with baby supplies, such as breast milk and formula. This bill will help improve traveling experiences for fami-

lies, while enforcing security standards for everyone traveling throughout our Nation's airports.

I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3246, the Traveling Parent Screening Consistency Act, introduced by Representative VAN TAYLOR.

As many of us can attest, the life of a parent with young or infant children can be quite stressful, particularly while traveling. Screening by the Transportation Security Administration at airports can make this even more stressful with inconsistent screening requirements for the essentials like formula, breast milk, deionized water, and juice.

This bill seeks to address any potential inconsistency in screening requirements by requiring the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review to determine if TSA needs to update or revise its protocols for screening and information sharing.

In addition to this determination, the GAO will also assess how passengers' complaints are monitored for trends and will include recommendations for how TSA can improve its practices for screening these items.

I would like commend Representative TAYLOR for his work on this legislation that addresses an issue brought to him by one of his constituents and is, likely, experienced by many new parents.

H.R. 3246 will be a tremendous benefit to the passenger experience for new families, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I have no more speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TAYLOR).

Mr. TAYLOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my legislation, H.R. 3246, the Traveling Parents Screening Consistency Act.

As a new Member of Congress, I endeavor to listen to my constituents. As a new Member, I have actually had over 300 individual meetings with my constituents in the last 8 months. I have had 24 Coffees with Your Congressman.

One of my constituents, a mother from Fairview, Texas, took advantage of this Coffee with Your Congressman opportunity and came and told me about her problems that she was having with TSA as a new mother trying to get her breast milk through to feed her child.

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This I realized was a problem not just for her, but many mothers across my district and really many mothers

across this entire country. I have heard story after story, as I have worked on this legislation, telling about how the TSA is just not consistent with how they are applying their rules.

So this bill seeks to create clear and consistent rules that parents can understand as they travel our Nation's airports. This is important legislation to help streamline that very important process to both keep us safe and make it easy to travel.

I want to thank my colleague very much from across the aisle, Congresswoman RICE. I appreciate the leadership of Chairman THOMPSON and Ranking Member ROGERS, and I also want to thank Senator MCSALLY for carrying this piece of legislation in the other Chamber.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to, hopefully, passing this today, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3246.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on the bill. I renew my support. I recommend my colleagues support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3246 aims to ensure that families receive consistent information regarding the screening process for baby supplies and nursing products. This bill will enable parents to properly prepare the supplies necessary to care for their children when traveling while ensuring passenger security through the screening process.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. TAYLOR for this fine piece of legislation, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3246.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COUNTER TERRORIST NETWORK ACT

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3526) to authorize certain counter terrorist networks activities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3526

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Counter Terrorist Network Act".

SEC. 2. DUTY TO COUNTER TERRORIST NETWORKS; DETAILS AND ASSIGNMENT.

Section 411 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211) is amended—

(1) in subsection (g)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—