

Iraq grapples with such challenges, the United States must show up to demonstrate leadership and friendship.

This bipartisan resolution expresses support for sovereign, democratic Iraq and strong relations between our two nations, while also highlighting the need to address humanitarian challenges facing Iraq, such as internal displacement, violence against minority religious and ethnic groups, and recovery of communities impacted by the counter-ISIS fight.

H. Res. 1062 also calls on Iraq to take all necessary steps to protect United States diplomats and servicemembers. When diplomats are able to do their job safely, investment in a growing economy can follow, benefiting the Iraqi people and their livelihoods.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for putting forth this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
Washington, DC, November 11, 2020.

Hon. RICHARD E. NEAL,
Committee on Ways and Means,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEAL: I am writing to you concerning H. Res. 1062. Affirming the nature and importance of the United States-Iraq bilateral relationship, including security and economic components of the relationship. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H. Res. 1062 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of Committee on Ways and Means conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,
Washington, DC, November 17, 2020.

Hon. ELIOT L. ENGEL,
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs,
Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN ENGEL: In recognition of the desire to expedite consideration of H. Res. 1062. Affirming the nature and importance of the United States-Iraq bilateral relationship, including security and economic components of the relationship, the Committee on Ways and Means agrees to waive formal consideration of the bill as to provisions that fall within the rule X jurisdiction of the Committee on Ways and Means.

The Committee on Ways and Means takes this action with the mutual understanding that we do not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and the Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as the bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within our jurisdiction. The Committee also

reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation.

Finally, I would appreciate your response to this letter confirming this understanding and would ask that a copy of our exchange of letter on this matter be included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of H. Res. 1062.

Sincerely,

RICHARD E. NEAL,
Chairman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 1062, reaffirming the U.S.-Iraq bilateral relationship.

In recent years, the United States and Iraq worked together to defeat the caliphate and free the Iraqi people from ISIS' tyrannical rule.

The American people are committed to supporting a sovereign and democratic Iraq. We have provided billions of dollars in foreign assistance to help Iraqis recover from the devastating impact that ISIS has had on their lives.

This year, the United States and Iraq held a strategic dialogue to further our bilateral relationship and discuss how we can continue to work together for our shared benefit.

With this resolution, the House is reaffirming our commitment to helping the Iraqi people and calling on the Iraqi Government to fulfill its commitments too.

The Iraqi Government needs to protect the United States' diplomats and servicemembers and hold accountable those involved in attacks against our Embassy, such as earlier this year.

The Government of Iraq also needs to hold accountable those responsible for violence against peaceful protesters.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman ENGEL for his work on this bipartisan resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. RESCIENTHALER) for their leadership in introducing this bipartisan resolution, which I support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me today in supporting this important resolution, H. Res. 1062, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1062, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FIGHTING EMERGING NARCOTICS THROUGH ADDITIONAL NATIONS TO YIELD LASTING RESULTS ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7990) to prioritize efforts of the Department of State to combat international trafficking in covered synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7990

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 "Fighting Emerging Narcotics Through Additional Nations to Yield Lasting Results Act" or the "FENTANYL Results Act".

SEC. 2. PRIORITIZATION OF EFFORTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO COMBAT INTERNATIONAL TRAFFICKING IN COVERED SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall prioritize efforts of the Department of State to combat international trafficking in covered synthetic drugs by carrying out programs and activities to include the following:

(1) Supporting increased data collection by the United States and foreign countries through increased drug use surveys among populations, increased use of wastewater testing where appropriate, and multilateral sharing of that data.

(2) Engaging in increased consultation and partnership with international drug agencies, including the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction, and regulatory agencies in foreign countries.

(3) Carrying out the program to provide assistance to build the capacity of foreign law enforcement agencies with respect to covered synthetic drugs, as required by section 3.

(4) Carrying out exchange programs for governmental and nongovernmental personnel in the United States and in foreign countries to provide educational and professional development on demand reduction matters relating to the illicit use of narcotics and other drugs, as required by section 4.

(b) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of this section.

(2) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

SEC. 3. PROGRAM TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO BUILD THE CAPACITY OF FOREIGN LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES WITH RESPECT TO COVERED SYNTHETIC DRUGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 660 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2420), the Secretary of State shall establish a program to provide assistance to build the capacity of law enforcement agencies of the countries described in subsection (c) to help such agencies to identify, track,

and improve their forensics detection capabilities with respect to covered synthetic drugs.

(b) **PRIORITY.**—The Secretary of State shall prioritize assistance under subsection (a) among those countries described in subsection (c) in which such assistance would have the most impact in reducing illicit use of covered synthetic drugs in the United States.

(c) **COUNTRIES DESCRIBED.**—The foreign countries described in this subsection are—

(1) countries that are producers of covered synthetic drugs;

(2) countries whose pharmaceutical and chemical industries are being exploited for development or procurement of precursors of covered synthetic drugs; or

(3) major drug-transit countries as defined by the President.

(d) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$4,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

SEC. 4. EXCHANGE PROGRAM FOR GOVERNMENTAL AND NONGOVERNMENTAL PERSONNEL TO PROVIDE EDUCATIONAL AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT ON DEMAND REDUCTION MATTERS RELATING TO ILLEGAL USE OF NARCOTICS AND OTHER DRUGS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of State shall carry out an exchange program for governmental and nongovernmental personnel in the United States and foreign countries to provide educational and professional development on demand reduction matters relating to the illicit use of narcotics and other drugs.

(b) **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**—The program required by subsection (a)—

(1) shall be limited to individuals who have expertise and experience in matters described in subsection (a);

(2) in the case of inbound exchanges, may be carried out as part of exchange programs and international visitor programs administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State, including the International Visitor Leadership Program; and

(3) shall include outbound exchanges for governmental and nongovernmental personnel in the United States.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Of the amounts authorized to be appropriated to carry out exchange programs and international visitor programs administered by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the Department of State for each of the fiscal years 2021 through 2025, there is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section \$1,000,000 for each such fiscal year.

SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAM.

(a) **INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL STRATEGY REPORT.**—Section 489(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291h(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(10) **SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS AND NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES.**—

“(A) **SYNTHETIC OPIOIDS.**—Information that contains an assessment of the countries significantly involved in the manufacture, production, or transshipment of synthetic opioids, including fentanyl and fentanyl analogues, to include the following:

“(i) The scale of legal domestic production and any available information on the number of manufacturers and producers of such opioids in such countries.

“(ii) Information on any law enforcement assessments of the scale of illegal production, including a description of the capacity of illegal laboratories to produce such opioids.

“(iii) The types of inputs used and a description of the primary methods of synthesis employed by illegal producers of such opioids.

“(iv) An assessment of the policies of such countries to regulate licit manufacture and interdict illicit manufacture, diversion, distribution, and shipment of such opioids and an assessment of the effectiveness of the policies' implementation.

“(B) **NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES.**—Information on the policies of responding to new psychoactive substances (as such term is defined in section 7 of the FENTANYL Results Act), to include the following:

“(i) Which governments have articulated policies on scheduling of such substances.

“(ii) Any data on impacts of such policies and other responses to such substances.

“(iii) An assessment of what policies the United States may want to consider articulating.”

(b) **DEFINITION OF MAJOR ILLICIT DRUG PRODUCING COUNTRY.**—Section 481(e) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2291(e)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by striking “means a country in which—” and inserting “means—

“(A) a country in which—”;

(B) by striking “(A) 1,000” and inserting the following:

“(i) 1,000”;

(C) by striking “(B) 1,000” and inserting the following:

“(ii) 1,000”;

(D) by striking “(C) 5,000” and inserting the following:

“(iii) 5,000”;

(E) in subparagraph (A)(iii), as redesignated by this subsection, by adding “or” at the end; and

(F) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) a country which is a significant direct source of illicit narcotic or psychotropic drugs or other controlled substances significantly affecting the United States.”; and

(2) in paragraph (5) to read as follows:

“(5) the term ‘major drug-transit country’ means a country through which illicit narcotic or psychotropic drugs or other controlled substances significantly affecting the United States are transported.”

SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should direct the United States Representative to the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States at the United Nations to advocate for more transparent assessments of countries by the International Narcotics Control Board; and

(2) bilateral, plurilateral, and multilateral international cooperation is essential to combating the trafficking of covered synthetic drugs.

SEC. 7. DEFINITION.

In this Act:

(1) The term “covered synthetic drug” means—

(A) a synthetic controlled substance (as defined in section 102(6) of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802(6))), including fentanyl or a fentanyl analogue; or

(B) a new psychoactive substance.

(2) The term “new psychoactive substance” means a substance of abuse, or any preparation thereof, that—

(A) is not—

(i) included in any schedule as a controlled substance under the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 801 et seq.); or

(ii) controlled by the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs signed at New York, New York, on March 30, 1961 or the Convention on Psychotropic Substances signed at Vienna, Austria, on February 21, 1971;

(B) is new or has reemerged on the illicit market; and

(C) poses a threat to the public health and safety.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHIO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7990, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, far too many Americans have witnessed firsthand the devastating effects of drug abuse. According to the Centers for Disease Control, our country saw the largest increase in overdose deaths from 2018 to 2019. That is why this bill comes before us at a critical time, and I thank the author, Mr. TRONE, for his leadership and hard work on this bill and on the entire subject.

Fentanyl is one of the most dangerous synthetic opioids contributing to the opioid crisis, and since it is largely manufactured outside of the United States, it is critical that we engage closely with our international partners to combat this scourge.

The FENTANYL Results Act requires the State Department to update its approach to illegal synthetic drugs. This bill opens strong channels of communications with foreign drug enforcement agencies, trains countries on how to combat synthetic drug production, and promotes exchange programs for renowned experts who can share their findings around the world.

With such an imposing task ahead of us, international cooperation is critical. It is not enough to tackle this issue domestically; we also must work together with our partners around the world to stop the transit of these illicit substances.

I was pleased that the House Foreign Affairs Committee passed this bill unanimously, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting its passage in the House today.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the FENTANYL Results Act.

The opioid crisis continues to have a devastating effect on Americans across this great Nation. It is imperative we use all the tools at our disposal to fully address this problem.

The FENTANYL Results Act ensures that we leverage the role of the State Department in this whole-of-government effort. Specifically, this bill requires the Secretary of State to

prioritize efforts to combat international trafficking in synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances.

A key provision of this bill authorizes the Secretary to provide assistance to foreign law enforcement agencies, including those in drug-transit countries, to stem the illicit flow of fentanyl and other synthetic drugs across our borders.

This bill requires the Secretary to foster greater partnerships with international drug agencies and increase data collection to keep pace with emerging synthetic drug use that could be exploited by the international trafficking networks.

It also addresses the demand side of this problem by authorizing an action change program to provide educational and professional development on demand reduction matters.

This bill is an important measure to continue our aggressive fight against this deadly fentanyl epidemic, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

□ 1330

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE), the author of this important bill, and a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my bill, the FENTANYL Results Act, that will help increase global cooperation in the fight against synthetic drug trafficking.

My nephew, Ian Trone, died 4 years ago of a fentanyl overdose at the age of 24, and since his passing, we have seen a dramatic and alarming increase in fentanyl and other synthetic opioid deaths across our country.

In 2019, there were nearly 71,000 overdose deaths in the United States, the highest number ever recorded. Most disturbingly, this number reversed the promising decrease in deaths we saw in 2018.

Why did we see a spike last year? Because fentanyl is showing up in more and more parts of the United States.

Mixed in with heroin, meth, and cocaine, fentanyl is causing more accidental overdoses and more deaths.

We know that fentanyl is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine.

Some synthetics, like carfentanyl, are even deadlier, some 10,000 times stronger than morphine.

In 2018, two-thirds of all opioid-related deaths involved synthetic opioids.

This rise in opioid deaths is especially alarming because of the significant impact we know the COVID pandemic has had on the opioid epidemic.

In Maryland, fentanyl was involved in 93 percent of all opioid-related deaths for the first 6 months of 2020, and fentanyl-involved deaths were up 12 percent in the second quarter compared to the same time last year.

We need to act now if we are going to put an end to these senseless deaths. We cannot do it alone.

The FENTANYL Results Act instructs the Secretary of State to:

Support increased data collection by the U.S. and other countries on drug use and make sure we share that data.

Increase consultation with international drug agencies and foreign regulatory agencies.

Implement technical assistance programs to build partner capacity in forensic detection capabilities.

And run international exchange programs among demand reduction experts and scientists.

The U.S. can't fight its way out of this alone. We need to work together on demand reduction at home, and we are doing that with stronger prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.

But we need to cooperate with international partners to stem the flow of synthetic opioids into the United States.

This means working with them to detect fentanyl and its precursors before these drugs leave the borders.

This means establishing best practices to reduce demand globally, so we have less of a market for these illicit substances.

This means recognizing that greater cooperation serves us all. It is in no country's interest to fuel the opioid epidemic.

I thank Ranking Member MCCAUL for coleading this bipartisan bill with me. Ranking Member MCCAUL has been a champion on this bipartisan issue long before I came to Congress, and I look forward to continuing our relationship.

I also thank Chairman ENGEL for helping move the bill through the Foreign Affairs Committee and making sure we take every possible step to end the flow of fentanyl and other synthetic drugs in the United States. We will miss your leadership here in Congress next year, and we know your service has a long way to go in the future.

We need to tackle the opioid epidemic from every angle, and that includes working with our international partners to curb drug trafficking and save lives. This bill helps us do this. I urge a "yes" vote.

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

In closing, I want to thank Representative TRONE for his work on this issue.

We all know someone, unfortunately, who has suffered from addiction. We must remain committed to defeating substance abuse and saving American lives. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I, too, would like to thank Chairman ENGEL for his years of dedication and service to the State of New York and to this Nation and his friendship. It has been an honor to work with you, sir. It has been an honor to know you, and I wish the best of life to you and Pat in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for his kind words. I really appreciate it.

I, again, thank Mr. TRONE for being a great champion on this issue and for his kind words.

This is the kind of cooperation we have on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I really have been honored to preside over it and to have been on the committee for so many years. These are important issues that affect real people. The Foreign Affairs Committee has always been at the forefront of these issues because of the gentlemen and women that you just heard. We call ourselves the most bipartisan committee, and I think it is true.

I, again, thank Mr. TRONE for being a great champion on this issue, and, Mr. YOHO, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all our 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 New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7990, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7276) to establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to eradicate locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7276

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 "Desert Locust Control Act".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to prioritize efforts to control the ongoing desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic productivity, and political stability, improve interagency coordination to prevent future outbreaks, and promote resilience in affected countries.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States Agency for International Development reports that countries in East Africa are currently suffering the worst desert locust outbreak in decades, which will devour crops and pasture and destroy local livelihoods across the region.