

more is being taken away regulatorily from farmers and given to environmental purposes.

We need to build more storage in my home State. We need to build what is called Sites Reservoir. We need to raise Shasta Dam. We need to look at other projects. We also need for the pumps at the delta to be running full blast at this time of year when we have this excess water running out to the ocean and filling up the San Luis Reservoir so we have that water supply for the southern part of the State in the San Joaquin Valley.

We need to do all these things in order to ensure that we have the crops to put the food on the table for Americans. At this time with the ag economy suffering so much across the country, we need to do everything we can to make their jobs easier.

MILITARY BOWL

(Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the East Carolina University Pirates will be taking on the North Carolina State University Wolfpack in what is sure to be an exciting 2024 Go Bowling Military Bowl at the Navy-Marine Memorial Stadium in Annapolis on December 28.

It will be an evening of incredible State pride, sportsmanship, and hard-hitting football by an intense in-State rivalry.

The Go Bowling Military Bowl matches top teams from the Atlantic Coast Conference and American Athletic Conference. Above all, it aims to benefit active and former servicemembers and their families. It will be fantastic to see two North Carolina teams in an excellent end to the season, especially for those players who are graduating.

It should not be any surprise who I will be cheering on, Coach Harrell and the ESU Pirates. Loyal and bold. We are purple and gold.

Aargh.

CONGRATULATING ANTHONY RODRIGUEZ AND KIONNE MCGHEE

(Mr. GIMENEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my dear friends and colleagues, Anthony Rodriguez and Kionne McGhee, the new chairman and vice chairman of the Miami-Dade Board of County Commissioners.

I look forward to continuing our work together to deliver results for the people of Miami-Dade County.

With my colleagues on the commission, I worked to deliver the largest tax cuts in Miami-Dade County history when I was the mayor, and being mayor of Miami-Dade County has been

one of the highlights of my career in public service.

I understand firsthand just how effective both Chairman Rodriguez and Vice Chairman McGhee are, and I am confident in their ability to lead with conviction for the community that we represent.

Mr. Speaker, I thank both of them and wish them Godspeed.

RECOGNIZING THE RETIREMENT OF CHIEF OF STAFF BETSY ARNOLD MARR

(Mr. DESAULNIER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my unbelievably talented chief of staff, Betsy Arnold Marr, as she retires from the House of Representatives after more than 25 years of service.

Betsy has worked in Congress through some of our Nation's biggest moments in recent history: September 11, passage of the Affordable Care Act, the pandemic, and January 6.

Through it all, she has been a thoughtful and dynamic leader who helped navigate it all with grace, talent, and intelligence.

Before her time in the House, Betsy developed her expertise in communications and press relations, working for the Minnesota Democratic Party on campaigns and then as a reporter.

Since coming to the House, she has worked for four Members, using her skills to help run each office and mentor her colleagues.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have worked for—I mean with Betsy for the last 10 years. We will miss her dearly and wish her and her husband, Charles, well in their next steps.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MAYOR MARK MURPHY

(Mrs. KIM of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Mark Murphy, who recently passed away. Known as "Mr. Orange," Mark was a lifelong resident of the city of Orange, born at St. Joseph Hospital, and graduating from Orange High School.

He served the city for decades on the City Planning Commission, the City Council, as mayor, and on the Board of Orange County Transportation Authority, all while working full time for over 33 years at Hewlett-Packard.

He was everywhere in Orange. He also was a talented musician, singing in the choir at First Presbyterian Church and playing guitar at concerts in the park.

Mr. Speaker, I send my deepest condolences to his wife, Vikki, and moth-

er, Lois. I join our Orange community in honoring his memory and a life very well lived.

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF CHIEF OF STAFF SAM PRITCHARD

(Mrs. HINSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor my outgoing chief of staff, Sam Pritchard, and thank him for his service to Iowa's Second Congressional District.

Sam is a Cedar Rapids native and there is no one more passionate about serving their home State. He has been a trusted confidant for me since joining our team but has also become a dear friend, always offering steady advice with a good dad joke thrown in every now and then for good measure.

I also thank Sam's wife, Katie, and his children, Clare and John Thomas, for sharing Sam with us over the years. We couldn't be more thrilled for your family in this new chapter.

Mr. Speaker, even though Sam is leaving the Hill, we know he will always be a member of our team. I thank him for his service to Iowa and his service to our country.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LATURNER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or votes objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

The House will resume proceedings on postponed questions at a later time.

DETECTION EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY EVALUATION TO COUNTER THE THREAT OF FENTANYL AND XYLAZINE ACT OF 2024

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 8663) to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect, identify, and disrupt illicit substances in very low concentrations.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:
Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLES.

This Act may be cited as the "Detection Equipment and Technology Evaluation to Counter the Threat of Fentanyl and Xylazine Act of 2024" or the "DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act of 2024".

SEC. 2. ENHANCING THE CAPACITY TO DETECT AND IDENTIFY DRUGS SUCH AS FENTANYL AND XYLAZINE.

Section 302 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 182) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (13), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in paragraph (14), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(15) carrying out, in coordination with the Drug Enforcement Administration, research, development, testing, evaluation, and cost-benefit analyses to improve the safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of equipment and the effectiveness and efficiency of reference libraries for use by Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement agencies for the accurate detection of drugs, such as fentanyl and xylazine, including—

“(A) portable equipment that can detect and identify drugs with minimal or no handling of the sample;

“(B) equipment that can separate complex mixtures containing low concentrations of drugs and high concentrations of cutting agents into their component parts to enable signature extraction for field identification and detection; and

“(C) technologies that use machine learning or artificial intelligence (as defined in section 5002 of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Act of 2020 (15 U.S.C. 9401)) and other techniques to predict whether the substances in a sample are controlled substance analogues or other new psychoactive substances not yet included in available reference libraries.”.

SEC. 3. REQUIREMENTS.

In carrying out section 302(15) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by section 2, of the Under Secretary for Science and Technology shall—

(1) follow the recommendations, guidelines, and best practices described in the Artificial Intelligence Risk Management Framework (NIST AI 100-1) or any successor document published by the National Institute of Standards and Technology; and

(2) establish the Directorate of Science and Technology’s research, development, testing, evaluation, and cost-benefit analysis priorities under such section 302(15) based on the latest available information, including specific drugs identified as threats in—

(A) the latest Homeland Threat Assessment published by the Department of Homeland Security;

(B) the latest State and Territory Report on Enduring and Emerging Threats published by the Drug Enforcement Administration; or

(C) any successor documents.

SEC. 4. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this Act may be construed to limit the authority of agencies currently managing, overseeing, or otherwise involved in drug equipment and reference libraries.

Amend the title so as to read: “An Act to require the Science and Technology Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security to develop greater capacity to detect and identify illicit substances in very low concentrations.”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, once again, with a strong voice of support for H.R. 8663, the DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act of 2024. This critical piece of legislation will equip DHS S&T with the authority it needs to improve the safety, effectiveness, and efficiency of drug detection equipment and reference libraries to protect frontline DHS personnel who seek to protect our Nation from the flow of illicit fentanyl and other drugs amidst the catastrophic mess at our southwest border.

I am glad that the Senate took swift action and passed this measure and concur with the amendment, which requires DHS to coordinate with the DEA and upholds the authority of other Federal agencies utilizing drug equipment and reference libraries.

I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA) for his diligent work on this legislation in the House, as well as the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

I also thank Senator CORNYN of Texas for working across Chambers and championing this important legislation through the Senate.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill so we can get it to the President’s desk as soon as possible, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 8663, the Detection Equipment and Technology Evaluation to Counter the Threat of Fentanyl and Xylazine Act of 2024 is an important piece of legislation that enables the DHS Science and Technology Directorate to improve the capabilities of law enforcement at every level in identifying and combating illicit substances.

This bipartisan bill demonstrates a strong commitment to equipping law enforcement with the tools needed to combat the proliferation of dangerous substances like fentanyl and xylazine.

The bill specifically directs DHS S&T to develop and evaluate advanced drug detection technologies like machines that can break down and analyze complex drug mixtures and AI systems to spot new drug threats.

These initiatives aim to enhance the precision and efficiency of drug detection, empowering law enforcement to respond effectively to evolving challenges.

Furthermore, H.R. 8663, prioritizes collaboration with agencies like the DEA and adherence to NIST’s artificial intelligence risk management framework, reinforcing the integrity and reliability of the technologies developed.

This bill is an important step in ensuring that DHS prioritizes the development and deployment of cutting-edge technologies to combat the growing threat of dangerous substances like fentanyl and xylazine so DHS will be better equipped to address emerging

drug trends, protect public safety, and support law enforcement efforts nationwide.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 8663 as we did in the past, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA).

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding. I was anxious about the chairman of the Homeland Security Committee yielding because his alma mater team, West Point, lost to my alma mater Annapolis this weekend 31-13 at the premier football game, so I appreciate the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the fight against fentanyl and xylazine is a battle that we cannot afford to lose, and right now the United States is at a crossroads.

Our communities are grappling with a devastating crisis as lethal drugs like fentanyl and xylazine continue to wreak havoc across our country.

Today, we have a chance to deliver solutions. The amended version of my DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act is back before us and it is a stronger, more comprehensive tool to tackle this epidemic.

Every year, over 100,000 precious American lives are lost to drug overdoses.

In 2023 alone, opioids were responsible for more than 81,000 deaths. Fentanyl, accounting for nearly 90 percent of synthetic opioid fatalities, claimed tens of thousands of lives, shattering families and leaving communities in mourning.

These numbers are tragic reminders of the lives we are losing every day.

□ 1230

Now, xylazine, a tranquilizer known on the streets as tranq, is being mixed with fentanyl, creating an even deadlier and harder to detect combination.

This toxic mix does not spare anyone. It claims lives regardless of age, race, or socioeconomic status. From suburban Long Island to urban centers and rural America, this crisis is everywhere, Mr. Speaker.

Earlier this year, the House passed the DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act with overwhelming bipartisan support. Since then, our Senate colleagues have worked to refine and enhance the legislation to better address the growing threat. Their amendments make a strong bill even stronger by ensuring our efforts are as coordinated and effective as possible.

The updated bill includes important improvements.

One, it mandates greater collaboration between the Department of Homeland Security and the Drug Enforcement Administration, ensuring that expertise and resources are shared in this fight.

Two, it prioritizes accuracy, efficiency, and innovation in drug detection technologies, including improving

reference libraries to ensure no deadly substance escapes detection.

Three, Mr. Speaker, it aligns research priorities with specific threats, incorporating not only DEA reports but also the latest Homeland Threat Assessment to address emerging challenges.

Finally, four, it preserves the authorities of Federal agencies managing detection equipment and reference libraries, maintaining a seamless response across departments.

These changes reflect the urgency and complexity of the crisis that we as a nation face.

This legislation will empower our law enforcement officers, public health workers, and communities by developing cutting-edge technology to detect and intercept dangerous substances; strengthening partnerships between Federal, State, and local agencies; and staying ahead of drug traffickers' tactics through innovation and advanced research.

This bill is more than just policy. It is a commitment to saving American lives.

Mr. Speaker, every overdose prevented means a family spared from grief, a child with a parent, and a community with hope.

I express my deep appreciation for my good friend, Congressman LOU CORREA, for joining me in championing this important legislation. His steadfast dedication to this cause along with Senators JOHN CORNYN, JON OSSOFF, and KYRSTEN SINEMA's thoughtful contributions are getting the bill over the finish line and onto the President's desk.

I also thank the many organizations representing law enforcement professionals, public health advocates, and local communities. Their input has been invaluable.

Mr. Speaker, the clock is ticking, and lives are at stake. Let us come together once again to pass the amended DETECT Fentanyl and Xylazine Act and send it to the President's desk.

Let us give our law enforcement the tools that they need, and let us stand with our communities. Let us take a giant leap toward ending this deadly epidemic.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time to close.

Republicans and Democrats alike recognize the challenges facing law enforcement in the detection of dangerous drugs like fentanyl and xylazine.

H.R. 8663 is a step in the right direction, and we should send it to the President's desk today.

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

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

Again, I strongly urge my colleagues to concur in the Senate amendments to H.R. 8663, and I appreciate the New Yorkers who contributed to this bill as well as Mr. CORREA. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GREEN) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 8663.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GREEN of Tennessee. 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.

BEAGLE BRIGADE ACT OF 2023

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 759) to authorize the National Detector Dog Training Center, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 759

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 "Beagle Brigade Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL DETECTOR DOG TRAINING CENTER.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a National Detector Dog Training Center (referred to in this Act as the "Center").

(b) DUTIES.—The Center shall have the following duties:

(1) Training dogs for the purpose of safeguarding domestic agricultural and natural resources from foreign and invasive pests and diseases.

(2) Training human handlers to successfully select and train dogs for the purpose described in paragraph (1).

(3) Collaborating with relevant Federal agencies, including U.S. Customs and Border Protection, to safeguard domestic agricultural and natural resources.

(4) Collaborating with external stakeholders, including State departments of agriculture, local and county agricultural officials, private sector entities, and other relevant non-Federal partners.

(5) Ensuring the health and welfare of all dogs under the care of the Center, including by ensuring access to necessary veterinary care, adequate shelter, and proper nutrition.

(6) Providing opportunities for private adoption of retirement-age trained dogs and dogs that do not complete training.

(7) Any other duties necessary to safeguard domestic agricultural and natural resources from foreign and invasive pests and diseases, as determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

SEC. 3. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Administrator of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, shall submit to Congress a report that contains—

(1) a description of current and emerging threats to domestic agricultural and natural resources from foreign pests and diseases within the purview of the operations of the Center;

(2) an examination of the role that the Center plays in the protection against foreign pests and diseases;

(3) a description of improvements needed in Federal programs to minimize threats from foreign pests and diseases within the purview of the operations of the Center, including strengthened coordination among the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and other relevant Federal agencies;

(4) recommendations to strengthen the capabilities of the Center in protecting against foreign pests and diseases; and

(5) recommendations to improve—

(A) the dog procurement procedures of the Center; and

(B) private adoption opportunities for retirement-age trained dogs and dogs that do not complete training.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 759.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be here to support this bill that we are now debating regarding the National Detector Dog Training Center.

This training center serves as an important line of defense in safeguarding America's agricultural and natural resources from harmful pests and diseases. The center in Georgia trains dogs and their handlers to detect prohibited agricultural items like fruits, vegetables, and meats.

These dogs and their handlers then serve at many of our border entry points to prevent such prohibited items from coming into our country and spreading dangerous pests and animal diseases that would have just devastating impacts on our domestic production, actually impacting our ability to feed ourselves, resulting in food insecurity, which affects national security.

While this bill simply codifies the training center that has been in existence since 1984, I am glad to see the center receive the recognition and prioritization it deserves.

I am happy to support this legislation that has been supported by Mr. SANFORD BISHOP. I also appreciate Representative FERGUSON's leadership on this bill in bringing it to the floor. I thank him for his service to Georgia's Third Congressional District.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.