

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

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the new member, Mr. VAN EPPS, on this legislation. I support H.R. 8168, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. VAN EPPS. This is his first piece of legislation that will be passing in the House. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 8168, 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. GARBARINO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8168.

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.

MEASURING ILLICIT FENTANYL TRAFFICKING ACT

Mr. GARBARINO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 8535) to direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop performance metrics relating to the detection, deterrence, and seizure of fentanyl, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 8535

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 “Measuring Illicit Fentanyl Trafficking Act”.

SEC. 2. COMBATING ILLICIT FENTANYL.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

(1) ensure that each component of the Department of Homeland Security engaged in the detection, deterrence, and seizure of illicit fentanyl—

(A) to the extent practicable, collaborate and share relevant information and data relating to the detection, deterrence, and seizure of illicit fentanyl with other components of the Department of Homeland Security engaged in such detection, deterrence, and seizure or the measurement thereof; and

(B) identify any barriers to sharing relevant information and data pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(2) establish performance metrics relating to the detection, deterrence, and seizure of illicit fentanyl for the Department of Homeland Security and each component of such Department and ensure that such metrics align with any strategic objectives and goals of the Department related to the efforts of the Department to combat illicit fentanyl trafficking.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WALKINSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARBARINO. 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 H.R. 8535.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8535, the Measuring Illicit Fentanyl Trafficking Act. This legislation requires the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop performance metrics relating to detection, deterrence, and seizure of illicit fentanyl for the Department of Homeland Security and each of its components.

Additionally, this bill requires each relevant DHS component to share information related to the detection, deterrence, and seizure of fentanyl with each other, as well as identify any barriers to sharing information and data.

The fiscal year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act required DHS to establish a program to collect data and develop measures to assess the effectiveness of efforts to detect and deter illicit fentanyl. It also required the Government Accountability Office to audit the program.

A September 2025 GAO report analyzed the Department's efforts to combat fentanyl trafficking, with findings that DHS had not yet established the program, that CBP was not provided adequate information from across DHS components that would inform the program, and that DHS had not developed performance goals and metrics to track them.

This legislation will support current DHS efforts to implement these requirements and combat the flow of illicit fentanyl into the United States.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 8535, the bipartisan Measuring Illicit Fentanyl Trafficking Act, is based on the non-partisan research and recommendations of the Government Accountability Office, which last year examined the Department of Homeland Security's efforts to detect, deter, and seize illicit fentanyl.

GAO identified critical gaps in DHS efforts against fentanyl trafficking: a lack of coordination, information sharing, and measures to assess DHS' effectiveness.

As a result, GAO made three straightforward recommendations: first, establish a program to collect data and measure effectiveness; second, ensure access to information across DHS components; and, third, develop performance goals and measures aligned with DHS' strategic objectives.

Our bill simply would put into law those commonsense recommendations.

Fentanyl remains one of the most devastating public safety and public health challenges facing our Nation. The scourge of fentanyl trafficking is sobering. CDC data showed that fentanyl accounted for over 69 percent of all drug overdose deaths in the United States in 2025. Last year alone, in the D.C. metropolitan region, there were nearly 1,000 deaths due to fentanyl overdose.

With lives, resources, and time on the line, it is important for DHS personnel to not only work hard in the fight against illicit fentanyl but to also work smart against this enormous challenge. That requires collaboration and the ability to assess how their operations are having an impact.

Madam Speaker, I thank Mr. MCCAUL, who was my co-lead on this legislation. I thank the chairman, Ranking Member THOMPSON, and Mr. CORREA, as well, who worked hard on it.

As I said, this bipartisan legislation would put three GAO recommendations for combating illicit fentanyl into law. It would require the establishment of a program to collect data and measure the effectiveness of current efforts to counter illicit fentanyl, ensure information sharing across DHS components, and require the development of performance goals and measures.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 8535, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I congratulate and thank Mr. WALKINSHAW for his hard work on this bill. It is a great piece of legislation. I encourage my colleagues to support H.R. 8535, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. VAN DUYN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8535, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: “A bill To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to develop performance metrics relating to the detection, deterrence, and seizure of illicit fentanyl, and for other purposes.”.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELO REALIGNMENT AND STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT REFORM ACT OF 2026

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7574) to provide for the reorganization and realignment of the Engagement, Liaison, and Outreach Office of the Department of Homeland Security, and for other purposes.

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

H.R. 7574

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 “ELO Realignment and Strategic Engagement Reform Act of 2026”.

SEC. 2. PLAN FOR REORGANIZATION AND REALIGNMENT OF DHS ENGAGEMENT, LIAISON, AND OUTREACH OFFICE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a comprehensive plan to carry out the following:

(1) An identification of redundant or non-essential positions, programs, or functions within the Engagement, Liaison, and Outreach office, including how reorganization of the Office will address such redundant or non-essential positions, programs, or functions.

(2) Realign the essential functions and personnel of the ELO Office within the Partner Engagement directorate of I&A.

(3) Improve the management and coordination of strategic relationships with priority law enforcement agencies, including by carrying out the following:

(A) Establishing clear communication protocols.

(B) Centralizing points of contact for law enforcement engagement.

(C) Enhancing information-sharing mechanisms.

(D) Reducing duplication of outreach across Department of Homeland Security components.

(E) Improving accountability and performance metrics related to stakeholder engagement.

(b) PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—The plan required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) Organizational analysis justifying the reorganization and realignment, including cost-benefit estimates, under paragraph (1) of such subsection.

(2) Detailed staffing proposals, including reassignment plans.

(3) A transition timeline for implementing the realignment within the Partner Engagement directorate of I&A, in accordance with paragraph (2) of such subsection.

(4) Internal oversight mechanisms to monitor implementation of such plan.

(5) Recommendations for future engagement models that reduce redundancy and improve efficiency in managing law enforcement and homeland security partnerships with priority law enforcement agencies.

(6) Assurance of continuity of intelligence support and convenings currently being provided to SLTT entity partners through the ELO office, including relevant HSIN-INTEL access.

(c) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a certification not later than 60 days after commencing implementation of the plan required under subsection (a).

(d) LIMITATION ON EXPANSION.—Until such time as the Secretary of Homeland Security submits the plan required under subsection (a) and certifies commencement of the implementation of such plan under subsection (c), the Secretary may not—

(1) expand the staffing, budget, or programmatic scope of the ELO Office; or

(2) establish new offices in the Department duplicating the mission of the ELO Office or the Partner Engagement directorate of I&A without specific congressional authorization.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(2) ELO OFFICE.—The term “ELO Office” means the Engagement, Liaison, and Outreach office within the Office of Intelligence and Analysis (I&A) of the Department of Homeland Security.

(3) I&A.—The term “I&A” means the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(5) SLTT ENTITY.—The term “SLTT entity” has the meaning given such term in section 2200 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 650).

(6) PRIORITY LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.—The term “priority law enforcement agencies” means Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies identified by the Secretary as key partners for national security, counterterrorism, emergency response, or other mission-critical operations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WALKINSHAW) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam 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 H.R. 7574.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of H.R. 7574, the ELO Realignment and Strategic Engagement Reform Act of 2026.

The Department of Homeland Security’s Engagement, Liaison, and Outreach, or ELO, Office operates as a separate office within the Office of Intelligence and Analysis. Despite their similar functions, ELO operates separately from I&A’s Partner Engagement directorate, which facilitates information flow and access for State, local, Tribal, and territorial partners.

The ELO Realignment and Strategic Engagement Reform Act will require the DHS Secretary to develop a comprehensive plan to reorganize the ELO office and realign it with the work of I&A’s Partner Engagement directorate to streamline operations and eliminate redundancies. This plan must specifically address ways to improve coordination with law enforcement agencies, centralize points of contact, and enhance information sharing.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative EVANS for his leadership. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, engagement with State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement is essential to the Department of Homeland Security’s mission to secure the homeland. State and local law enforcement partners must have clear points of contact within DHS to maximize information sharing and collaboration on issues like emergency and cybersecurity incident response.

H.R. 7574 aims to ensure this by directing the Secretary of Homeland Security to realign the functions and personnel within the Office of Intelligence and Analysis’ Engagement, Liaison, and Outreach office.

Madam Speaker, while it is important for State and local officials to have clear points of contact at DHS for information sharing and collaboration, H.R. 7574’s requirement to identify redundancies at the Office of Intelligence and Analysis should not, I hope, be viewed as a pretext to reduce I&A’s workforce.

□ 1700

I&A is charged with delivering timely and actionable intelligence to our law enforcement on the front lines and unnecessarily slashing their capacity could unintentionally create security gaps and make our communities more vulnerable to cyber terror attacks and other threats.

While I understand that H.R. 7574 seeks to improve DHS relationships with law enforcement agencies by establishing clear communication protocols and centralizing points of contact for law enforcement engagement, I urge DHS to consult with Congress on the implementation of this bill and before any staffing changes or reductions are made. We need to strengthen, not undermine I&A’s ability to protect the homeland.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding me time. I also thank my bipartisan partner on this, Representative GOLDMAN, for his efforts on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support the bipartisan bill, the ELO Realignment and Strategic Engagement Reform Act.

This bill consolidates the functions of two existing Department of Homeland Security offices tasked with public safety coordination into one centralized point of contact. DHS’ Office of Intelligence and Analysis, also known as I&A, is the only entity in the U.S. intelligence community responsible for delivering intelligence directly to State and local law enforcement agencies.

As a former cop for over a decade in the Denver metro area, I know there is nothing more critical to law enforcement operations than open communication between local, State, and Federal agencies. Information sharing between the men and women on the front lines and Federal intelligence counterparts ensures that bad actors, often tied to international criminal organizations like cartels and terrorist groups, are removed from our streets as quickly as possible.

From my own experience, I know that State and local law enforcement often face national and international threats: terrorists, cartels, cyberattacks, and foreign enemy regimes. This bill supports State and local law enforcement when they encounter those national or those international threats.

Unfortunately, in my home State of Colorado, Denver Democrats are often more concerned about finding ways to weaken law enforcement operations and attacking our brave officers rather than prioritizing public safety. Defund-the-police antics create public safety conflicts and confusion for law enforcement officers who are trying to serve and protect their communities.

This bill ensures that State and local agencies can easily and frequently access the resources they require from their Federal partners when they are facing threats that require Federal backing.

By reorganizing the ELO Office and realigning its essential functions within I&A's partner engagement directorate, this bill streamlines coordination between law enforcement agencies, enhances information-sharing mechanisms, and reduces duplicative actions.

This ensures responsible stewardship of taxpayer dollars, and it makes sure that State and local law enforcement agencies have the information that they need when they are facing those national or international threats.

Time and again, we wait for tragedies to remind us that we have to incentivize interagency collaboration. This bill takes the fight to the streets, and it makes sure that we are preventively getting these resources to our State and local law enforcement agencies, because no single law enforcement agency can effectively address the full spectrum of threats without that combined resource.

Madam Speaker, I strongly urge support for this bipartisan piece of legislation and support for the millions of State and local law enforcement officers across our country.

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

Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's and the committee's work on H.R. 7574, and it sounds like, I think, that we are in alignment. I just want to be sure that the language in the bill referring to redundancies isn't used to defund the I&A at the Department of Homeland Security. It sounds

like the gentleman and I are on the same page.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 7574. I congratulate Mr. EVANS on this fine piece of legislation, 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. GARBARINO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7574.

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.

STOP FOREIGN FUNDS IN ELECTIONS ACT

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3535) to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to apply the prohibition against contributions and donations by foreign nationals in connection with elections to contributions or donations in connection with ballot initiatives and referenda.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3535

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 "Stop Foreign Funds in Elections Act".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON CONTRIBUTIONS AND DONATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN CONNECTION WITH BALLOT INITIATIVES AND REFERENDA AND RECALL ELECTIONS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Section 319(a)(1)(A) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting "including a State or local ballot initiative or referendum or recall election" after "State, or local election".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply with respect to contributions and donations made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MORELLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. STEIL. Madam 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 the bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3535, the Stop Foreign

Funds in Elections Act, introduced by my friend, Representative BRIAN FITZPATRICK.

U.S. elections should be for U.S. citizens only, and only U.S. citizens should be participating in and donating in political causes.

Today, gaps in our existing laws undermine this principle and actually permit foreign actors to fund U.S. political activities. It is true. Current law allows foreign funding to infiltrate State and local ballot initiatives, referenda, and recall elections.

As we have seen in recent history, those races can attract millions of dollars in outside spending. Some of that has been foreign money, and right now that is completely legal.

Shadowy groups, like Sixteen Thirty Fund, funneled millions of foreign-linked dollars into ballot initiatives and campaigns in States, including Arizona, Nevada, and Ohio.

It sounds crazy, but it is true, Madam Speaker.

We should all be able to agree that foreign funds should not be influencing or financing ballot measures, referenda, or recall elections. Current law, as we know, already prohibits foreign money in Federal elections, and this bill broadens that nonpartisan, commonsense prohibition to similar State and local elections.

Madam Speaker, elections should be decided by Americans, and they should not be influenced or funded by foreign nationals.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation and ensure American elections remain for American citizens only, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, this bipartisan bill, the Stop Foreign Funds in Elections Act, will close a loophole, as my colleague and friend, Mr. STEIL, the chairman of the Committee on House Administration, has indicated, that currently allows foreign nationals to contribute to State and local ballot initiatives, as well as recall referenda.

This change is needed because the Federal Elections Commission previously determined that the Federal Election Campaign Act's foreign national prohibition does not actually reach ballot initiatives that do not appear to be linked to an office-seeking candidate at the Federal, State, or local level.

The FEC often sends legislative recommendations to Congress, adopted on a bipartisan basis, to update and strengthen our campaign finance regime. This very bill has been included in their recent recommendations. In fact, this bill is among the highest priority legislative recommendations from the FEC.

I thank the bill's sponsor, Congressman FITZPATRICK, as well as the bill's co-lead, Congressman GOLDEN, for their important work on this issue.