

The threat posed by illicit pill presses has risen as drug traffickers continue to press fentanyl, methamphetamine, and other illicit drugs into drug pills.

In 2025 alone, DEA seized over 47 million fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills. This bill makes important regulatory changes to strengthen DEA's ability to stop bad actors from misusing pill presses, tableting, and encapsulating machines and their critical components to illicitly manufacture controlled substances to poison our communities.

This bill will make our streets safer.

I applaud the tireless efforts of my friend from Colorado to protect Americans from these threats.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 8005. This legislation addresses the supply chains that turn illicit chemicals into counterfeit pills by targeting the equipment, importation, and production behind the fentanyl crisis. Over the past several years, we have worked together in a strong, bipartisan way to make real progress in combating the overdose crisis. However, it is important to recognize that an enforcement-only strategy is not the answer. This legislation prioritizes enforcement, and enforcement alone ultimately does not save lives.

The good news is that we know what does: expanding access to treatment for opioid use disorder and harm-reduction interventions like fentanyl test strips and naloxone.

That is why the Trump administration's actions to slash substance use treatment funding is so alarming. It could threaten the real progress that we have made. The Trump administration has dismantled the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, SAMHSA, the agency responsible for addressing the overdose crisis, and it has kept hundreds of millions of dollars in addiction and overdose prevention funding.

If we truly want to protect our community, we need to work together to increase access to treatment and stop these attacks from this administration.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. EVANS), who is a tireless fighter on this issue and a very valuable member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. EVANS of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in strong support of my bill to help combat the epidemic of fentanyl deaths that have been driven by the proliferation of counterfeit pills.

My bill, the Stop Pills That Kill Act, is commonsense legislation that will help save American lives by cracking down on criminals who traffic poison disguised as prescription drugs.

Under Republican leadership, the United States has thankfully seen a steep decline in monthly synthetic opioid deaths, driven by policies that strengthen border security and target cartels and drug dealers. Unfortunately, my State of Colorado has seen the exact opposite trend, with an average overdose rate of about 800 deaths per month at the end of 2024 increasing to 1,000 deaths now. Because Colorado's trends have not matched the Nation and have, in fact, gone the other direction, my State has, unfortunately, seen more than 1,600 tragic and preventable excess overdose deaths.

I was a cop in the Denver area for over a decade. I know that this figure isn't just a tragic coincidence. It is a direct result of failed policies. While I was working to keep communities in Colorado safe from the poison that is fentanyl, Denver Democrats chose repeatedly to push soft-on-crime policies that lessened criminal sentencing for drug offenses while refusing to take a hard line on fentanyl.

The Stop Pills That Kill Act counteracts these deadly policies by doing three simple things: It closes a sentencing loophole that allows poison peddlers off with a slap on the wrist. It implements serialization requirements for pill presses and their critical components. And it makes it illegal to manufacture, distribute, or import pill presses with the intent to illicitly produce a controlled substance.

I will remind my colleagues that every 15 days under the previous administration we lost the same number of Americans to drug overdose deaths that we lost in the entirety of the September 11 terrorist attacks. I was a cop for 10 years, and I was a soldier for 12. I deployed to a combat zone as part of the global war on terror, and that statistic speaks volumes. We must remember the impacts that fentanyl has had on hundreds of thousands of American families.

During the legislative process, two bills were folded into mine, the Fight Illicit Pill Presses Act, led by Representative HAGEMAN, and the PRESS Act led by Representative MCDOWELL. I thank both of them for their work, but I want to particularly recognize my friend, Mr. MCDOWELL, who tragically lost his own brother to fentanyl nearly 10 years ago. Representative MCDOWELL's dedication to fighting this crisis is a fitting honor to his brother's legacy.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this critically important, commonsense bill.

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, as we have noted, this legislation addresses supply chains that turn illicit chemicals into counterfeit pills, and it is a critical part of fighting back against the fentanyl crisis. We must do this

and more, restoring funding, restoring programs, and ensuring access to treatment.

For these reasons, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hard work of my friend from Colorado. I encourage a "yes" vote on the 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 Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 8005, 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 amend the Controlled Substances Act to prevent the misuse of a tableting machine, encapsulating machine, or critical part of a tableting and encapsulating machine for the illicit manufacture of a controlled substance or listed chemical, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COORDINATING AND HARNESSING AMERICA'S RECOVERY OF MINERALS ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9617) to amend the Solid Waste Disposal Act to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to coordinate a National Critical Mineral Recovery Strategy, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9617

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 "Coordinating and Harnessing America's Recovery of Minerals Act" or the "CHARM Act".

SEC. 2. NATIONAL CRITICAL MINERAL RECOVERY STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 2009. NATIONAL CRITICAL MINERAL RECOVERY STRATEGY.

"(a) STRATEGY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies that the Administrator determines to be relevant, develop and carry out a National Critical Mineral Recovery Strategy (in this section referred to as the 'Strategy') for the purpose of coordinating Federal efforts to recover critical minerals from discarded materials.

"(2) PURPOSE.—In developing the Strategy under paragraph (1), the Administrator, in consultation with the heads of other Federal agencies described in paragraph (1), shall—

"(A) identify programs administered by, and authorities of, the Administrator that

relate to the recovery of critical minerals from discarded materials;

“(B) identify programs administered by, and authorities of, the other relevant Federal agencies that relate to the recovery of critical minerals from discarded materials;

“(C) identify, and consider for inclusion in the Strategy, opportunities that expand the recovery of critical minerals, as well as that address legal, technological, and other barriers to recovering such critical minerals from discarded materials;

“(D) identify, and consider for inclusion in the Strategy, opportunities to recover critical minerals from discarded materials that are mining waste or residuals or metal processing waste;

“(E) identify discarded materials that are potential sources of critical minerals;

“(F) identify potential critical minerals that may be in discarded materials;

“(G) evaluate the role of recovered critical minerals, and the sources from which such critical minerals were recovered from discarded materials, in strengthening domestic supply chains of critical minerals; and

“(H) identify opportunities to recover critical minerals from discarded materials in a manner that minimizes risk to human health and the environment.

“(b) REPORT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Administrator shall transmit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives and Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate, and make publicly available, a report that contains the Strategy and a description of activities carried out pursuant to subsection (a).

“(2) INCLUSION.—The Administrator shall include in the report transmitted under paragraph (1) a description of—

“(A) any actions taken by the Administrator to facilitate the recovery of critical minerals from discarded materials pursuant to the Strategy;

“(B) any actions taken by another Federal agency, in coordination with the Administrator, to facilitate the recovery of critical minerals from discarded materials pursuant to the Strategy;

“(C) any ongoing or planned actions by the Administrator to facilitate the recovery of critical minerals from discarded materials pursuant to the Strategy; and

“(D) any recommendations for legislation to support the developing and carrying out of the Strategy.

“(c) CRITICAL MINERAL DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘critical mineral’ has the meaning given such term in section 7002(a)(3) of the Energy Act of 2020 (30 U.S.C. 1606(c)(3)).”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The table of contents contained in section 1001 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2008 the following:

“Sec. 2009. National Critical Mineral Recovery Strategy.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

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GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legis-

lation and to include extraneous material on H.R. 9617.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Environment Subcommittee Chairman PALMER and Ranking Member TONKO, for introducing H.R. 9617, the Coordinating and Harnessing America's Recovery of Minerals Act, or CHARM Act.

Throughout this Congress, our committee has examined opportunities to recover critical minerals from discarded materials, such as mine waste, coal combustion materials, end-of-life electronics, and produced water.

The CHARM Act is a product of a lot of this work. This bill directs the EPA, in consultation with Federal agencies, to develop a national critical mineral recovery strategy in coordination with other Federal agencies. EPA already has the expertise in recovery of valuable materials from discarded materials, and the agency is well-positioned to lead these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in the House to support the passage of this bipartisan legislation. I appreciate the hard work of Chairman PALMER and Ranking Member TONKO, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 9617, the CHARM Act, bipartisan legislation led by our committee's Environment Subcommittee Ranking Member TONKO and Chairman PALMER.

Critical minerals are a vital component of many modern technologies, from our cell phones to clean energy technologies like solar panels and electric vehicles. As the world continues to invest in these technologies, the demand for these minerals will only increase.

However, the United States is heavily reliant on imports for many critical materials, leaving us exposed to geopolitical supply chain risks. China currently possesses a stranglehold on much of the critical mineral supply chain and has already demonstrated a willingness to leverage this dominance by restricting exports to the United States and other countries. This poses serious economic and energy security risks.

Critical mineral recovery offers a resourceful solution to this problem. Looking at discarded materials like e-waste and other end-of-life products promotes resource efficiency, boosts resiliency, helps alleviate supply chain pressures, and reduces the need to mine new minerals.

This bipartisan bill directs the Environmental Protection Agency to carry out a national critical mineral recovery strategy to coordinate Federal efforts to recover critical minerals from discarded materials, tapping into an

important domestic feedstock that is easily overlooked.

This strategy can help our Nation collect the information to bolster our domestic critical mineral supply chains. It will build on EPA's ongoing efforts under the bipartisan infrastructure law, without compromising the environment or public health.

For too long, we have allowed valuable critical minerals to go to landfills, never to be recovered. This must change if we want to remain globally competitive and reduce our dependence on foreign sources for critical minerals.

While there is much more work to do to scale our domestic recycling and recovery efforts, this is an important and commonsense step forward.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. PALMER), the chairman of the Environment Subcommittee and my good friend who has been an absolute leader on the critical mineral issue. We have seen that most of them are developed and processed in China, and he has been waving the flag that we need to get ahead of that. We now have an administration and Congress moving forward because of the work of this man.

Mr. PALMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the full committee, Mr. GUTHRIE, for all of his help.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of my bill, H.R. 9617.

According to the United States Geological Survey, of the 33 important critical minerals—the majority of which that our country needs is being imported—the United States depends on China as a major source for 14 of them.

This should be a major source of concern to everyone because China has already demonstrated its willingness to leverage our supply chain vulnerabilities in recent years.

To address this alarming situation, my friend, Ranking Member PAUL TONKO, and I, along with our colleagues on the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Environment, have explored opportunities to identify untapped, nontraditional sources of critical minerals right here in the United States.

The bipartisan CHARM Act is a product of these efforts throughout the 119th Congress. I thank my colleague, Ranking Member TONKO, again, for joining me in advancing this legislation.

This legislation directs the Environmental Protection Agency to work with other relevant agencies to develop a national critical mineral recovery strategy. In furthering this strategy, EPA will identify its own programs and authorities that could increase recovery of critical minerals from discarded materials, as well as those at other Federal agencies.

It will pinpoint opportunities to address legal and technological barriers to recovering critical minerals from discarded materials. EPA will also identify potential sources of critical minerals in discarded materials and evaluate the role of these recovered materials in strengthening domestic supply chains.

The committee advanced this legislation with across-the-board bipartisan support, and I encourage my colleagues in the full House to support its passage.

Mrs. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan CHARM Act is an important and commonsense bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the hard bipartisan work and can't overstate how important this is and how important the lead of the gentleman from Alabama has been on this issue. I strongly encourage a "yes" vote on 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 Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 9617.

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.

BATTERY RECYCLING FOR AMERICA'S COMPETITIVE ECONOMY ACT

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 9615) to support the recycling and recovery of lithium-ion batteries, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 9615

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 "Battery Recycling for America's Competitive Economy Act" or the "BRACE Act".

SEC. 2. END OF LIFE LITHIUM-ION BATTERY MANAGEMENT.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term "Administrator" means the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(2) BATTERY.—The term "battery" has the meaning given such term in section 273.9 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

(3) DESTINATION FACILITY.—The term "destination facility" has the meaning given such term in section 273.9 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

(4) LARGE QUANTITY HANDLER OF UNIVERSAL WASTE.—The term "large quantity handler of universal waste" has the meaning given such term in section 273.9 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations).

(5) LITHIUM-ION BATTERY.—The term "lithium-ion battery" means a battery that uses the movement of lithium ions between two electrodes to store and release energy.

(b) INTERIM REQUIREMENTS FOR LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES.—Until the date on which the Administrator issues the rule pursuant to subsection (c), in lieu of the requirements described in section 273.60(a) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), a destination facility that stores lithium-ion batteries prior to recycling such lithium-ion batteries shall comply with—

(1) the requirements described in sections 273.33(a)(1), 273.35, 273.36, and 273.37 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), which shall apply as if the destination facility were a large quantity handler of universal waste; and

(2) the requirements described in section 273.60(b) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations), which shall apply as if the destination facility did not store the lithium-ion batteries prior to recycling such lithium-ion batteries.

(c) UNIVERSAL WASTE RULEMAKING FOR LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall issue a rule regarding the management of lithium-ion batteries as universal waste.

(2) CONTENTS.—In issuing the rule pursuant to paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consider including in such rule, in addition to any other issue that arises as part of the notice and comment period for such rule, the following:

(A) Universal waste requirements specially tailored for lithium-ion batteries.

(B) Elements of the interim requirements for lithium-ion batteries specified in subsection (b), as appropriate.

(C) Any additional regulatory changes to support the recycling of lithium-ion batteries and recovery of critical minerals, while maintaining protections for health and the environment.

(D) Additional safety requirements needed to address gaps in existing protections.

(3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to limit any future rulemaking of the Environmental Protection Agency regarding lithium-ion batteries.

SEC. 3. TECHNICAL UPDATES TO THE MERCURY-CONTAINING AND RECHARGEABLE BATTERY MANAGEMENT ACT.

Section 104(a) of the Mercury-Containing and Rechargeable Battery Management Act (42 U.S.C. 14323(a)) is amended by striking "the regulations promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency at 60 Fed. Reg. 25492 (May 11, 1995), as effective on May 11, 1995" and inserting "part 273 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or any successor regulations)".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Mrs. FLETCHER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to include extraneous material on H.R. 9615.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, end-of-life batteries are a strategic source of nickel, cobalt, and copper, and the volume of batteries available for recycling is expected to triple over the next 10 years.

The Battery Recycling for America's Competitive Economy Act, or the BRACE Act, introduced by my colleague Representative MILLER-MEEKS, would address an unnecessary limitation in the EPA's current regulations by allowing destination facilities that recycle lithium-ion batteries to store the batteries prior to recycling.

The legislation would also require EPA to conduct a rulemaking to establish lithium-ion batteries as a separate category of universal waste within 18 months, providing greater regulatory clarity and certainty to support the growth of the domestic battery recycling industry.

Mr. Speaker, the House Energy and Commerce Committee advanced this bill by a unanimous vote, 46-0. I urge my colleagues in the House to support this bipartisan legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 9615, the BRACE Act, will help us increase the domestic recycling of batteries while keeping critical minerals found in those batteries in the United States for future use.

This bill is a compromise and a win-win for the environment and our economic supply chain. First and foremost, this bill will require the Environmental Protection Agency to develop, finally, a regulatory framework specifically for lithium-ion battery recycling that addresses safety concerns while protecting public health and the environment.

EPA has promised battery recyclers a lithium-ion battery rule for years, and the BRACE Act will finally get it done.

The new rule will consider new safety measures for battery recycling, which is critically important as many landfills and recyclers have been forced to address the fire hazards associated with lithium-ion batteries without any guidance from EPA on how to manage these risks.

The rule also requires EPA to take into consideration any impacts on health and the environment. This is because we know that many of the substances found within these batteries are hazardous and should be managed properly.

The bill creates parity between facilities that temporarily store lithium-ion batteries before recycling and facilities that store battery waste onsite. It also maintains and, in some cases, establishes stronger regulatory guidelines for safety at these facilities.

The BRACE Act offers a meaningful path forward on lithium-ion battery recycling. It ensures we keep critical mineral components in our domestic supply chain, all while protecting health and safety.

To be clear, the BRACE Act is a bipartisan compromise. While the text does not include everything either side might have wanted, there was significant bipartisan work done to reach this agreement.