

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1734

To require coordinated National Institute of Standards and Technology science and research activities regarding illicit drugs containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other substances of concern, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 23, 2023

Mr. COLLINS (for himself, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mrs. MCCLELLAN, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Ms. ROSS, Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. TRONE, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. BABIN, and Mr. STRONG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To require coordinated National Institute of Standards and Technology science and research activities regarding illicit drugs containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other substances of concern, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Testing, Rapid Anal-
3 ysis, and Narcotic Quality Research Act” or the “TRANQ
4 Research Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. XYLAZINE DETECTION AND ANALYSIS.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall—

7 (1) support NIST intramural basic measure-
8 ment science and research to advance—

9 (A) analytical methods to identify, under-
10 stand, differentiate, and categorize illicit drugs
11 containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or
12 other emerging substances of concern;

13 (B) measurement technologies to shorten
14 analysis timelines and enhance narcotic and
15 opioid detection and analysis capabilities in il-
16 licit drugs;

17 (C) new data tools, techniques, and proc-
18 esses to identify and publicly disclose relevant
19 information concerning illicit drugs containing
20 xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or other
21 emerging substances of concern; and

22 (D) all other areas determined by the Di-
23 rector to be critical to the development and de-
24 ployment of technologies to measure and ana-
25 lyze the presence of xylazine, novel synthetic

1 opioids, and other emerging substances of con-
2 cern in illicit drugs;

3 (2) support activities to inform and expand the
4 development of near-real time spectrometry capabili-
5 ties regarding xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and
6 other emerging compounds in illicit drugs;

7 (3) convene the private sector, institutions of
8 higher education, nonprofit organizations, Federal
9 laboratories, and other Federal agencies engaged in
10 the analysis of illicit drugs to develop coordinated
11 strategies and voluntary best practices for the safe
12 handling, transport, and analysis of illicit drugs con-
13 taining xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or other
14 emerging substances of concern;

15 (4) establish or expand collaborative partner-
16 ships or consortia with other government agencies
17 engaged in counternarcotic research and develop-
18 ment, institutions of higher education, Federal lab-
19 oratories, and the private sector to enhance narcotic
20 and opioid detection and analysis capabilities regard-
21 ing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other
22 emerging substances of concern in illicit drugs; and

23 (5) provide opportunities for graduate and post-
24 graduate research on the detection and identification

1 of xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other emerg-
2 ing substances of concern in illicit drugs.

3 (b) CONTROLS.—In carrying out activities authorized
4 under this section, the Director shall ensure proper secu-
5 rity controls are implemented to protect sensitive informa-
6 tion, as appropriate.

7 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
9 the Director of the National Institute of Standards
10 and Technology.

11 (2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term “Fed-
12 eral laboratory” has the meaning given such term in
13 section 4 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Inno-
14 vation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

15 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
16 term “institution of higher education” has the
17 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
18 er Education Act of 1965 (19 U.S.C. 1001).

19 (4) NIST.—The term “NIST” means the Na-
20 tional Institute of Standards and Technology.

21 (5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term
22 “nonprofit organization” means an organization de-
23 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue
24 Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section
25 501(a) of such code.

1 (6) XYLAZINE.—The term “xylazine” means
2 the nonopioid tranquilizer methyl benzene compound
3 frequently used in veterinary medicine as an emetic
4 and sedative with analgesic and muscle relaxant
5 properties.

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