

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4739

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to protect U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines against potential synthetic opioid exposure, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 18, 2019

Ms. CLARKE of New York (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. ROSE of New York, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. KATKO, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to protect U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents, other personnel, and canines against potential synthetic opioid exposure, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Synthetic Opioid Expo-
5 sure Prevention and Training Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROTECTION AGAINST POTENTIAL SYNTHETIC**
2 **OPIOID EXPOSURE WITHIN U.S. CUSTOMS**
3 **AND BORDER PROTECTION.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle B of title IV of the
5 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211 et seq.)
6 is amended by inserting after section 415 the following
7 new section:

8 **“SEC. 416. PROTECTION AGAINST POTENTIAL SYNTHETIC**
9 **OPIOID EXPOSURE.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of U.S. Cus-
11 toms and Border Protection shall issue a policy that speci-
12 fies effective protocols and procedures for the safe han-
13 dling of potential synthetic opioids, including fentanyl, by
14 U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers, agents,
15 other personnel, and canines, and to reduce the risk of
16 injury or death resulting from accidental exposure and en-
17 hance post-exposure management.

18 “(b) TRAINING.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Together with the issuance
20 of the policy described in subsection (a), the Com-
21 missioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection
22 shall require mandatory and recurrent training on
23 the following:

24 “(A) The potential risk of opioid exposure
25 and safe handling procedures for potential syn-
26 thetic opioids, including precautionary measures

1 such as the use of personal protective equip-
2 ment during such handling.

3 “(B) How to access and administer opioid
4 receptor antagonists, including naloxone, post-
5 exposure to potential synthetic opioids.

6 “(2) INTEGRATION.—The training described in
7 paragraph (1) may be integrated into existing train-
8 ing under section 411(l) for U.S. Customs and Bor-
9 der Protection officers, agents, and other personnel.

10 “(c) PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT AND
11 OPIOID RECEPTOR ANTAGONISTS.—Together with the
12 issuance of the policy described in subsection (a), the
13 Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection
14 shall ensure the availability of personal protective equip-
15 ment and opioid receptor antagonists, including naloxone,
16 to all U.S. Customs and Border Protection officers,
17 agents, other personnel, and canines at risk of accidental
18 exposure to synthetic opioids.

19 “(d) OVERSIGHT.—To ensure effectiveness of the pol-
20 icy described in subsection (a)—

21 “(1) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and
22 Border Protection shall regularly monitor the effi-
23 cacy of the implementation of such policy and adjust
24 protocols and procedures, as necessary; and

1 “(2) the Inspector General of the Department
2 shall audit compliance with the requirements of this
3 section not less than once each year for the five
4 years after the date of the enactment of this sec-
5 tion.”.

6 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
7 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is
8 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
9 415 the following new item:

 “Sec. 416. Protection against potential synthetic opioid exposure.”.

