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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. COX of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, 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 “Methamphetamine Re-
5 sponse Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Methamphetamine poses a significant public
9 health and safety threat and qualifies as an emerg-

1 ing drug threat, as defined in section 702 of the Of-
2 fice of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization
3 Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701).

4 (2) Methamphetamine treatment admissions in-
5 creased from 15.1 percent of all admissions in 2008
6 to 23.6 percent in 2017, the latest year for which
7 data is available.

8 (3) During the timeframe described in para-
9 graph (2)—

10 (A) methamphetamine-related treatment
11 admissions among women increased from 19.2
12 percent of all drug-related treatment admissions
13 to 28.3 percent; and

14 (B) heroin use among those admitted for
15 methamphetamine-related treatment increased
16 from 5.3 percent to 23.6 percent.

17 (4) By the end of 2019, methamphetamine
18 availability, use, purity, and potency had increased
19 nationally, as street-level prices declined.

20 (5) Methamphetamine use is a nationwide issue.
21 Its use remains widespread in Midwest and Western
22 States and is becoming increasingly prevalent in
23 Northeastern States.

24 (6) Methamphetamine is the drug most often
25 associated with violent crime.

1 (7) According to the Centers for Disease Con-
2 trol and Prevention—

3 (A) between 2018 and 2019, drug overdose
4 deaths involving methamphetamine and other
5 stimulants increased by 27 percent nationally;

6 (B) the number of deaths described in sub-
7 paragraph (A) increased in 27 of the 38 States
8 that provide drug-specific overdose data to the
9 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
10 and

11 (C) between January 2019 and January
12 2020, among 36 States and the District of Co-
13 lumbia, suspected stimulant overdoses, includ-
14 ing methamphetamine, treated in emergency de-
15 partments increased by 23 percent.

16 (8) Methamphetamine-related overdose deaths
17 will likely continue to increase in 2020, due in part
18 to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic, which makes
19 obtaining treatment for substance use disorders, in-
20 cluding methamphetamine use, more difficult.

21 (9) The increase in methamphetamine use and
22 the negative respiratory and pulmonary health ef-
23 fects associated with its use has caused the National
24 Institute on Drug Abuse to warn clinicians to be
25 prepared to monitor adverse effects when treating

1 individuals using methamphetamine who also have
2 COVID-19.

3 (10) Since the onset of COVID-19 in the
4 United States, the number of law enforcement and
5 first responder agencies entering data into nation-
6 wide overdose mapping applications to track real-
7 time suspected overdoses, including methamphet-
8 amine overdoses, has increased.

9 (11) In the first 9 months of fiscal year 2020,
10 there was a 52 percent increase in the amount of
11 methamphetamine seized by U.S. Customs and Bor-
12 der Protection.

13 (12) Public reports indicated that Mexican car-
14 tels may be stockpiling money and illicit drugs, in-
15 cluding methamphetamine, on both sides of the
16 Southwest Border and that the Drug Enforcement
17 Administration is preparing to respond to any poten-
18 tial surge in supply.

19 (13) Intentional preparation to counter any
20 surges in production, distribution, and use are essen-
21 tial in lowering methamphetamine-related overdose
22 deaths and substance use disorders.

23 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF EMERGING THREAT.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Congress declares methamphet-
25 amine an emerging drug threat, as defined in section 702

1 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthor-
2 ization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701), in the United
3 States.

4 (b) REQUIRED EMERGING THREAT RESPONSE
5 PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enact-
6 ment of this Act, the Director of the Office of National
7 Drug Control Policy shall establish and implement an
8 Emerging Threat Response Plan that is specific to meth-
9 amphetamine in accordance with section 709(d) of the Of-
10 fice of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act
11 of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1708(d)).