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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a Joint Task Force to enhance integration of the Department of Homeland Security's border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LANGEVIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize a Joint Task Force to enhance integration of the Department of Homeland Security's border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States, 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 “Joint Task Force to
3 Combat Opioid Trafficking Act of 2019”.

4 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF JOINT TASK FORCE TO
5 COUNTER OPIOIDS.**

6 Subsection (b) of section 708 of the Homeland Secu-
7 rity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 348) is amended—

8 (1) in paragraph (2)(A), by adding at the end
9 the following new clause:

10 “(iv) Enhancing the integration of the
11 Department’s border security operations to
12 detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent nar-
13 cotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic
14 opioids, from entering the United States.”;

15 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (9) through
16 (13) as paragraphs (11) through (15), respectively;
17 and

18 (3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the fol-
19 lowing new paragraphs:

20 “(9) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SEC-
21 TOR.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a
23 Joint Task Force may engage with representa-
24 tives from a private sector organization for the
25 purpose of carrying out the mission of such
26 Joint Task Force, and any such engagement

1 shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory
2 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

3 “(B) ASSISTANCE FROM PRIVATE SEC-
4 TOR.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding
6 subsection (b)(1), the Secretary, with the
7 agreement of a private sector organization,
8 may arrange for the temporary assignment
9 of an employee of such organization to a
10 Joint Task Force in accordance with this
11 paragraph.

12 “(ii) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary
13 shall provide for a written agreement be-
14 tween the Department, the private sector
15 organization concerned, and the employee
16 concerned regarding the terms and condi-
17 tions of the assignment of such employee
18 under this paragraph.

19 “(C) NO FINANCIAL LIABILITY.—Any
20 agreement under this paragraph shall require
21 the private sector organization concerned to be
22 responsible for all costs associated with the as-
23 signment of an employee under this paragraph.

24 “(D) DURATION.—An assignment under
25 this paragraph may, at any time and for any

1 reason, be terminated by the Secretary or the
2 private sector organization concerned and shall
3 be for a total period of not more than two
4 years.

5 “(10) COLLABORATION WITH TASK FORCES
6 OUTSIDE DHS.—The Secretary may enter into a
7 memorandum of understanding by which a Joint
8 Task Force established under this section to carry
9 out any purpose specified in paragraph (2)(A) and
10 any other Federal, State, local, Tribal, territorial, or
11 international entity or task force established for a
12 similar purpose may collaborate for the purpose of
13 carrying out the mission of such Joint Task Force.”.

14 **SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION; REPORTING.**

15 (a) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the
16 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Home-
17 land Security shall—

18 (1) make a determination regarding whether to
19 establish a Joint Task Force under section 708 of
20 the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to carry out the
21 purpose specified in clause (iv) of subsection
22 (b)(2)(A) of such section, as added by section 2 of
23 this Act; and

24 (2) submit to the Committee on Homeland Se-
25 security of the House of Representatives and the Com-

1 mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-
2 fairs of the Senate written notification of such deter-
3 mination, including, if such determination is in the
4 negative, information on the basis for such negative
5 determination.

6 (b) REPORTING.—If the Secretary of Homeland Se-
7 curity establishes a Joint Task Force under section 708
8 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to carry out the
9 purpose specified in clause (iv) of subsection (b)(2)(A) of
10 such section, as added by section 2 of this Act, the Sec-
11 retary shall—

12 (1) beginning with the first report required
13 under subsection (b)(6)(F) of such section 708, in-
14 clude with respect to such a Joint Task Force—

15 (A) a gap analysis of funding, personnel,
16 technology, or other resources needed in order
17 to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent nar-
18 cotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic
19 opioids, from entering the United States; and

20 (B) a description of collaboration pursuant
21 to subsection (b)(10) of such section (as added
22 by section 2 of this Act) between such a Joint
23 Task Force and any other Federal, State, local,
24 Tribal, territorial, or international task force,
25 including the United States Postal Service and

1 the United States Postal Inspection Service;
2 and
3 (2) in each review required under subsection
4 (b)(11)(C) of section 708 of the Homeland Security
5 Act of 2002, as redesignated by section 2 of this
6 Act, an assessment of the activities of such a Joint
7 Task Force, including an evaluation of whether such
8 Joint Task Force has enhanced integration of the
9 Department's efforts, created any unique capabili-
10 ties, or otherwise enhanced operational effectiveness,
11 coordination, or information sharing to detect, inter-
12 dict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl
13 and other synthetic opioids, from entering the
14 United States.