H. R. 1

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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-

tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,
SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.  

This Act may be cited as the “Joint Task Force to Combat Opioid Trafficking Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF JOINT TASK FORCE TO COUNTER OPIOIDS.  

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

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

“(iv) Enhancing the integration of the Department's border security operations to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States.”;  

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

(3) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraphs:  

“(9) ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—  

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of a Joint Task Force may engage with representatives from a private sector organization for the purpose of carrying out the mission of such Joint Task Force, and any such engagement
shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory
Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

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

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

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

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

“(D) DURATION.—An assignment under
this paragraph may, at any time and for any
reason, be terminated by the Secretary or the private sector organization concerned and shall be for a total period of not more than two years.

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

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

(a) **NOTIFICATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

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

(2) submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Com-
mittee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate written notification of such determination, including, if such determination is in the negative, information on the basis for such negative determination.

(b) REPORTING.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security establishes a Joint Task Force under section 708 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to carry out the purpose specified in clause (iv) of subsection (b)(2)(A) of such section, as added by section 2 of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) beginning with the first report required under subsection (b)(6)(F) of such section 708, include with respect to such a Joint Task Force—

(A) a gap analysis of funding, personnel, technology, or other resources needed in order to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States; and

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

and

(2) in each review required under subsection (b)(11)(C) of section 708 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as redesignated by section 2 of this Act, an assessment of the activities of such a Joint Task Force, including an evaluation of whether such Joint Task Force has enhanced integration of the Department’s efforts, created any unique capabilities, or otherwise enhanced operational effectiveness, coordination, or information sharing to detect, interdict, disrupt, and prevent narcotics, such as fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, from entering the United States.