To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct programs to address the usage of illicit drugs, particularly fentanyl, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Kuster of New Hampshire introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct programs to address the usage of illicit drugs, particularly fentanyl, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “__________ Act of 2018”.

SEC. 2. PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORIES TO DETECT FENTANYL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-
(a) Secretary—The Secretary shall establish a program to award grants to Federal, State, and local agencies for the establishment or operation of public health laboratories to detect fentanyl, its analogues, and other synthetic opioids, as described in subsection (b).

(b) STANDARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use, and in consultation with the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall—

(1) develop standards for effectively handling and testing fentanyl, its analogues, and other synthetic opioids; and

(2) include in such standards procedures for encountering new and emerging synthetic opioid formulations and reporting those findings to other Federal, State, and local public health laboratories.

(c) LABORATORIES.—Each public health laboratory funded under subsection (a) shall—

(1) agree to follow the standards established under subsection (b) and be capable of providing systematic and routine laboratory testing of drugs for the purposes of obtaining and disseminating public health information to Federal, State, and local public health officials, laboratories, and other entities the Secretary deems appropriate;
(2) work with law enforcement agencies and public health authorities to develop real-time information on the purity and movement of fentanyl, its analogues, and other synthetic opioids;

(3) assist State and local law enforcement agencies in testing seized drugs when State and local forensic laboratories request additional assistance; and

(4) provide early warning information and advice to Federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies and public health authorities of potential significant changes in the supply of fentanyl, its analogues, and other synthetic opioids.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated $15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

SEC. 3. ENHANCED FENTANYL SURVEILLANCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall enhance its drug surveillance program by—

(1) expanding its surveillance program to include all 50 States and the territories of the United States;

(2) increasing and accelerating the collection of data on fentanyl, its analogues, and other synthetic
opioids, including related overdose data from medical
examiners and drug treatment admissions; and

(3) utilizing available and emerging information
on fentanyl, its analogues, and other synthetic
opioids, including—

(A) the National Drug Early Warning Sys-
tem;

(B) State and local public health authori-
ties; and

(C) Federal, State, and local public health
laboratories.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

SEC. 4. PILOT PROGRAM FOR POINT-OF-USE TESTING OF
ILICIT DRUGS FOR DANGEROUS CONTAMINANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary
for Mental Health and Substance Use, in coordination
with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and
Prevention, shall—

(1) establish a pilot program through which 5
State or local agencies conduct, in 5 States, point-
1 of-use testing of illicit drugs for dangerous contaminants;
2
3 (2) establish metrics to evaluate the success of
4 the pilot program in reducing drug overdose rates;
5 and
6
7 (3) based on such metrics, conduct an annual
8 evaluation of the pilot program and submit an an-
9 nual report to the Congress containing the results of
10 such evaluation.
11
12 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
13 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
14 $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.