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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D 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 2018”.

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

6 Section 708 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002
7 (6 U.S.C. 348) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (b)(2)(A), by adding at the
9 end 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 and

16 (2) in subsection (b)—

17 (A) by redesignating paragraphs (9)
18 through (13) as paragraphs (11) through (15),
19 respectively; and

20 (B) by inserting after paragraph (8) the
21 following new paragraph:

22 “(9) **ENGAGEMENT WITH THE PRIVATE SEC-**
23 **TOR.**—

24 “(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director of a
25 Joint Task Force may engage with representa-
26 tives from a private sector organization for the

1 purpose of carrying out the mission of such
2 Joint Task Force, and any such engagement
3 shall not be subject to the Federal Advisory
4 Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

1 (2) submit to the Committee on Homeland Se-
2 curity of the House and the Committee on Home-
3 land Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-
4 ate written notification of such determination, in-
5 cluding, if such determination is in the negative, in-
6 formation on the basis for such negative determina-
7 tion.

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

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

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

22 (B) a description of collaboration pursuant
23 to subsection (b)(10) of such section (as added
24 by section 2 of this Act) between such a Joint
25 Task Force and any other Federal, State, local,

1 tribal, territorial, or international task force, in-
2 cluding the United States Postal Service and
3 the United States Postal Inspection Service;
4 and

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