

prioritize efforts to combat international trafficking in synthetic drugs and new psychoactive substances.

A key provision of this bill authorizes the Secretary to provide assistance to foreign law enforcement agencies, including those in drug-transit countries, to stem the illicit flow of fentanyl and other synthetic drugs across our borders.

This bill requires the Secretary to foster greater partnerships with international drug agencies and increase data collection to keep pace with emerging synthetic drug use that could be exploited by the international trafficking networks.

It also addresses the demand side of this problem by authorizing an action change program to provide educational and professional development on demand reduction matters.

This bill is an important measure to continue our aggressive fight against this deadly fentanyl epidemic, and I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1330

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE), the author of this important bill, and a valued member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge my colleagues to support my bill, the FENTANYL Results Act, that will help increase global cooperation in the fight against synthetic drug trafficking.

My nephew, Ian Trone, died 4 years ago of a fentanyl overdose at the age of 24, and since his passing, we have seen a dramatic and alarming increase in fentanyl and other synthetic opioid deaths across our country.

In 2019, there were nearly 71,000 overdose deaths in the United States, the highest number ever recorded. Most disturbingly, this number reversed the promising decrease in deaths we saw in 2018.

Why did we see a spike last year? Because fentanyl is showing up in more and more parts of the United States.

Mixed in with heroin, meth, and cocaine, fentanyl is causing more accidental overdoses and more deaths.

We know that fentanyl is 50 to 100 times stronger than morphine.

Some synthetics, like carfentanil, are even deadlier, some 10,000 times stronger than morphine.

In 2018, two-thirds of all opioid-related deaths involved synthetic opioids.

This rise in opioid deaths is especially alarming because of the significant impact we know the COVID pandemic has had on the opioid epidemic.

In Maryland, fentanyl was involved in 93 percent of all opioid-related deaths for the first 6 months of 2020, and fentanyl-involved deaths were up 12 percent in the second quarter compared to the same time last year.

We need to act now if we are going to put an end to these senseless deaths. We cannot do it alone.

The FENTANYL Results Act instructs the Secretary of State to:

Support increased data collection by the U.S. and other countries on drug use and make sure we share that data.

Increase consultation with international drug agencies and foreign regulatory agencies.

Implement technical assistance programs to build partner capacity in forensic detection capabilities.

And run international exchange programs among demand reduction experts and scientists.

The U.S. can't fight its way out of this alone. We need to work together on demand reduction at home, and we are doing that with stronger prevention, treatment, and recovery programs.

But we need to cooperate with international partners to stem the flow of synthetic opioids into the United States.

This means working with them to detect fentanyl and its precursors before these drugs leave the borders.

This means establishing best practices to reduce demand globally, so we have less of a market for these illicit substances.

This means recognizing that greater cooperation serves us all. It is in no country's interest to fuel the opioid epidemic.

I thank Ranking Member MCCAUL for coleading this bipartisan bill with me. Ranking Member MCCAUL has been a champion on this bipartisan issue long before I came to Congress, and I look forward to continuing our relationship.

I also thank Chairman ENGEL for helping move the bill through the Foreign Affairs Committee and making sure we take every possible step to end the flow of fentanyl and other synthetic drugs in the United States. We will miss your leadership here in Congress next year, and we know your service has a long way to go in the future.

We need to tackle the opioid epidemic from every angle, and that includes working with our international partners to curb drug trafficking and save lives. This bill helps us do this. I urge a "yes" vote.

Mr. YOHO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

In closing, I want to thank Representative TRONE for his work on this issue.

We all know someone, unfortunately, who has suffered from addiction. We must remain committed to defeating substance abuse and saving American lives. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

I, too, would like to thank Chairman ENGEL for his years of dedication and service to the State of New York and to this Nation and his friendship. It has been an honor to work with you, sir. It has been an honor to know you, and I wish the best of life to you and Pat in the future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. YOHO) for his kind words. I really appreciate it.

I, again, thank Mr. TRONE for being a great champion on this issue and for his kind words.

This is the kind of cooperation we have on the Foreign Affairs Committee, and I really have been honored to preside over it and to have been on the committee for so many years. These are important issues that affect real people. The Foreign Affairs Committee has always been at the forefront of these issues because of the gentlemen and women that you just heard. We call ourselves the most bipartisan committee, and I think it is true.

I, again, thank Mr. TRONE for being a great champion on this issue, and, Mr. YOHO, thank you.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all our colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7990, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DESERT LOCUST CONTROL ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7276) to establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to eradicate locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7276

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 "Desert Locust Control Act".

SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States to prioritize efforts to control the ongoing desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic productivity, and political stability, improve interagency coordination to prevent future outbreaks, and promote resilience in affected countries.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States Agency for International Development reports that countries in East Africa are currently suffering the worst desert locust outbreak in decades, which will devour crops and pasture and destroy local livelihoods across the region.

(2) As of June 2020, there were more than 26 million people experiencing acute food insecurity in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Sudan, and Djibouti, and these numbers are projected to increase if the desert locust outbreak is not controlled.

(3) As the desert locust outbreak continues, there may be insufficient resources to continue to conduct aerial spraying and without such resources the current outbreak could develop into a plague by the end of 2020.

(4) The desert locust outbreak in East Africa, particularly in Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia, is negatively impacting food security, local livelihoods and economic productivity, and may threaten political stability in the region.

(5) Proactive investments now to control the desert locust outbreak could reduce the need for a much larger United States humanitarian response effort later, as well as support economic and political stability and build resilience in affected countries.

(6) In order to optimize the United States response to the desert locust outbreak, an interagency working group should be established to develop and implement a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, mitigate impacts on food security, economic productivity, and political stability and prevent future outbreaks.

SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish an interagency working group to coordinate the United States response to the ongoing desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, including the development of a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the outbreak, mitigate the impacts on food security, economic productivity, and political stability, and prevent future outbreaks.

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The interagency working group shall be composed of the following:

(A) Two representatives from the United States Agency for International Development.

(B) One representative from each of the following:

- (i) The United States Mission to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.
- (ii) The National Security Council.
- (iii) The Department of State.
- (iv) The Department of Defense.
- (v) The Department of Agriculture.
- (vi) Any other relevant Federal department or agency.

(2) CHAIR.—The President shall designate one of the representatives from the United States Agency for International Development described in paragraph (1)(A) to serve as chair of the interagency working group.

(c) DUTIES.—The interagency working group shall—

(1) assess the scope of the desert locust outbreak in East Africa and other affected regions, including its impact on food security, economic productivity, and political stability in affected countries;

(2) assess the impacts of restrictions relating to the coronavirus disease 2019 (commonly referred to as “COVID-19”) pandemic;

(3) monitor the effectiveness of ongoing assistance efforts to control the desert locust outbreak and mitigate its impacts and identify gaps and opportunities for additional support to such programs;

(4) review the effectiveness of regional and multilateral efforts to control the desert locust outbreak and the coordination among relevant United States Government agencies, regional governments, and inter-

national organizations, including the World Food Programme and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization; and

(5) not later than 90 days after the establishment of the interagency working group under subsection (a), develop and submit to the President and the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive, strategic plan to control the desert locust outbreak, including a description of efforts to—

(A) improve coordination among relevant United States Government agencies, regional governments, and international organizations, including the World Food Programme and the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization;

(B) ensure delivery of necessary assets control the desert locust outbreak and humanitarian and development assistance to address and mitigate impacts to food security, economic productivity, and political stability; and

(C) to the extent practicable, prevent and mitigate future desert locust and other, similar destructive insect outbreaks (such as Fall Armyworm) in Africa and other parts of the world, which require a humanitarian response.

(d) INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP SUPPORT.—The interagency working group shall continue to meet not less than semi-annually to facilitate implementation of the comprehensive, strategic plan required by subsection (c)(5).

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, or at such time as there is no longer an upsurge in the desert locust outbreak in East Africa, whichever occurs earlier.

(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 7276.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Desert Locust Control Act, and I thank Mr. SMITH for bringing forward this very important legislation.

In late 2019, swarms of locusts entered the Horn of Africa from the Gulf of Aden, multiplying and spreading throughout the region.

Locusts are highly mobile and can consume vast amounts of vegetation in a short period of time. Even a small swarm can consume crops that would feed up to 35,000 people in day. They have devastated large swaths of farm-

land through east Africa, including Kenya, Somalia, and Ethiopia and across the Red Sea in Yemen.

Food security is already hanging by a thread in these regions, and efforts to control the locusts have been hindered by the COVID-19 pandemic, lack of reliable data, and the geographical reach of the swarm across multiple countries.

The Desert Locust Control Act would step up coordination of efforts to evaluate and respond to the locust outbreak across the United States Government, bringing in the support of the U.S. mission to the Food and Agricultural Organization, USAID, and others to effectively respond to the outbreak.

We have already seen the ripple effects of the coronavirus pandemic on poverty, food insecurity, health, and education. We must ensure that we do not let this locust plague compound those challenges.

I, again, thank Mr. SMITH for his leadership in authoring this measure.

I urge Members on both sides of the aisle to support this bill, and, Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will begin by thanking our distinguished chairman, ELIOT ENGEL, for his extraordinary leadership as chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee for all these years. He is a good friend. We have worked on so many issues together. I thank him again for his leadership. It has been extraordinary. Your bipartisanship has been an example to us all, so I thank you for that, Eliot, and I really mean that deeply.

I also thank my good friend and colleague from Texas, the ranking member, MICHAEL MCCAUL, for his support of this legislation and other important initiatives.

Also, Eliot, thank you again.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 7276, the Desert Locust Control Act, which I introduced along with my good friend and colleague, KAREN BASS. She is chairwoman, as you know, of the Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights and International Organizations Subcommittee. I am the ranking member. In previous times I was the chairman, and she was my ranking member, and we have worked very closely together on all issues dealing with the health and well-being of people around the world through the global health portion of our portfolio, but also, with a very particular emphasis on Africa.

This bipartisan bill would create an interagency task force that would address the crisis of increasingly biblical proportions caused by swarms of desert locusts, which have been compounded by the COVID crisis, which our country and so many other nations are dealing with.

Indeed, as serious as COVID has been, and it has been serious, as we all know, the unfortunate fact is that there are many other threats to the welfare and

well-being of so many people in the developing world, including Sub-Saharan Africa, where the likelihood of food insecurity looms larger thanks to the pandemic.

Just how bad is it?

Swarms of hundreds of millions of locusts darken the sky, descend upon an area, stripping it entirely of its vegetation. Crops are just decimated in a matter of minutes and hours.

Unfortunately, due in part to this bad timing with a pandemic, we are witnessing the real possibility of famine in many countries of east Africa, where over 27 million people are now estimated to be suffering from acute food insecurity, which is defined as the sudden lack of food or the ability to produce or access minimum requirements of food.

I should note that in the case of one of the nations most impacted, Ethiopia, the political situation has simultaneously deteriorated, so that the country is now on the brink of civil war with the added crisis of refugees fleeing conflicted areas added to the mix of cascading calamities and compounding crises.

Indeed, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the FAO, estimates that this infestation of locusts will persist until at least March 2021 in both Ethiopia and Somalia.

Our bill would create an interagency working group comprised of representatives of the USAID, State, the NSC, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Agriculture to formulate a strategic plan to address this and future locust outbreaks, as well as other similarly destructive pests, such as fall armyworm, which wreaks tremendous havoc on crops annually.

The working group would also include a representative from our mission to the United Nations food agencies based in Rome, where our current ambassador, Kip Tom, is doing a stellar job interacting with both the World Food Programme and the Food and Agriculture Organization, as well as locust-impacted countries.

Ambassador Kip Tom has briefed me and others repeatedly. We have talked about best practices on the phone in Skype phone calls, and again, I want to single him out for the tremendous job that he has done in trying to mitigate this crisis.

The World Food Programme has also been a tremendous help, as it has been in so many other places around the world, under the extraordinary leadership of David Beasley.

□ 1345

Indeed, the international community has recognized the yeoman's work by awarding the World Food Program the Nobel Peace Prize.

Ambassador Tom has been pushing the FAO in particular to proactively address the problem and adopt the better use of technology. For example, use of apps on smartphones in Kenya advocated by the Ambassador has led to

roughly 80 percent of the data collected on the location of desert locusts, thereby allowing for the targeted mobilization of aerial assets for locust eradication and control.

It is innovation such as this, and the adoption of best practices, which our interagency group will focus on identifying and implementing. Indeed, we also think that the working group will help ensure that our taxpayer dollars are spent in the most effective way possible. The United States Government has committed over \$24 million to the USAID, and that has made a difference as well.

While the focus of our bill is on East Africa, other countries like Yemen, India, Pakistan, and Afghanistan are threatened by these spreading swarms as well. Indeed, Yemen has become a breeding ground for locusts crossing over into the Horn of Africa, compounding the problem caused by indigenous swarms in the countries of the Horn.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I urge strong support for the bill. And again, I thank our distinguished chairman for his leadership on this bill and so many others.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, once again, I thank Mr. SMITH for his work on this legislation. Mr. SMITH, through the years, has done great work on so many issues. I think he is the only one on the Foreign Affairs Committee that has actually been there longer than I have. We have collaborated on a good many projects, bipartisan projects, through the years. I thank Mr. SMITH for being such a good member of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this legislation. It is very important. It is very important for our country. It is very important for the world. I urge all my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 7276, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to establish an interagency working group to develop a comprehensive, strategic plan to control locust outbreaks in the East Africa region and address future outbreaks in order to avert mass scale food insecurity and potential political destabilization, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HAITI DEVELOPMENT, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND INSTITUTIONAL TRANSPARENCY INITIATIVE ACT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill

(H.R. 5586) to measure the progress of recovery and development efforts in Haiti and the strength of democracy and rule of law in the country, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5586

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 "Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) On January 12, 2010, a massive earthquake struck near the Haitian capital city of Port-au-Prince, leaving an estimated 220,000 people dead, including 103 United States citizens, 101 United Nations personnel, and nearly 18 percent of the nation's civil service, as well as 300,000 injured, 115,000 homes destroyed, and 1,500,000 people displaced.

(2) The Post Disaster Needs Assessment conducted by the Government of Haiti, the United Nations, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and others estimated that damage and economic losses from the January 12, 2010, earthquake totaled \$7,804,000,000.

(3) The international community, led by the United States and the United Nations, mounted an unprecedented humanitarian response to the earthquake in Haiti. Through 2018, more than \$8 billion has been disbursed by donors. Since the 2010 earthquake, the United States Government has disbursed more than \$4,000,000,000 in recovery and development funding.

(4) On October 4, 2016, Hurricane Matthew struck southwestern Haiti on the Tiburon Peninsula, causing widespread damage and flooding and leaving 1.4 million people in need of immediate assistance. Recovery efforts continue more than three years later.

(5) Prior to both the earthquake and hurricane, Haiti registered among the lowest socioeconomic indicators and had the second highest rate of income disparity in the world - conditions that have further complicated disaster recovery and resilience efforts.

(6) In June 2019 the World Food Program reported that Haiti has one of the highest levels of chronic food insecurity in the world, with more than half of its total population chronically food insecure and 22 percent of children chronically malnourished.

(7) In October 2010, an unprecedented outbreak of cholera in Haiti resulted in over 800,000 reported cases and over 9,000 deaths to date. The Pan American Health Organization reported in 2018 that the cholera incidence rate in Haiti is 25.5 cases per 100,000.

(8) With United States assistance, almost 14,000 jobs have been created since the 2010 earthquake, largely in the apparel industry at the Caracol Industrial Park (in partnership with the Inter-American Development Bank, the Haitian Government, and the private sector) in northern Haiti.

(9) According to the Haitian National Human Rights Defense Network, on November 13, 2018, at least 59 people were shot and killed in the Port-au-Prince neighborhood of La Saline. After months of investigations, no one has been held responsible for the La Saline massacre.

(10) Since 2018, tens of thousands of Haitians have participated in popular demonstrations demanding accountability over government management of Petrocaribe resources. In early 2019, the Haitian superior court of auditors released a series of reports implicating high-level government officials in the misappropriation of funds.