

all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material into the RECORD on H.R. 4688.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I thank Delegate Holmes Norton and the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee Chairman PERRY for their leadership on this bill to shed wasted space in the Federal Government's real estate portfolio.

H.R. 4688 directs the General Services Administration to sell the vacant Webster School building in downtown Washington, D.C.

The Webster School was originally purchased by GSA at the request of the Secret Service in 2003. However, for 20 years, no plans or funding have been secured for its Federal use and the building sits vacant, in disrepair in the middle of downtown D.C.

It makes no sense for taxpayers to pay for buildings that have never been occupied and have no real use or benefit.

I was pleased to see, after the committee's passage of H.R. 4688 in July, that GSA notified Congress of its intent to dispose of the Webster School, along with 22 other unneeded properties across the country.

However, it is important that we pass this bill to ensure that the property is actually sold and sold for the highest market value.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this bill, which I introduced with the Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management Subcommittee Chair, SCOTT PERRY, would direct the General Services Administration to sell the Federal property known as the DANIEL WEBSTER School in the District of Columbia for fair market value by December 31st, 2025.

Built in 1882, the Daniel Webster School, a red brick, three-story building has been used for a variety of purposes over the years, however, since the 1980s, the building which is located in downtown D.C. has been vacant and has fallen into disrepair.

The General Services Administration purchased the Webster School 20 years ago, yet the school remains unoccupied, draining the General Service Administration's resources for decades. This bill would return the site to productive use.

During my service in Congress, I have enacted bipartisan bills to transfer unused and underused Federal land in D.C. to the D.C. government or the

private sector to redevelop neighborhoods and to generate tax revenue.

This includes the southeast and southwest waterfronts. My hope is to see the Daniel Webster School similarly reactivated. The sale provision in this bill is the same as the sale provision in the bill enacted in 2016 that directed the General Services Administration to sell the general property in D.C. known as the Cotton Annex, which is now being converted into housing.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman PERRY for his partnership on this bill. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, in closing, this bill is a small, but necessary step in the rightsizing of the Federal real estate portfolio.

The Federal real estate portfolio has far too much empty space as it is, and we should not hold onto known empty buildings at the taxpayers' expense.

Madam Speaker, I urge support of this legislation, 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 Jersey (Mr. KEAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4688.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1530

TESTING, RAPID ANALYSIS, AND NARCOTIC QUALITY RESEARCH ACT OF 2023

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 1734) to require coordinated National Institute of Standards and Technology science and research activities regarding illicit drugs containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other substances of concern, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendment is as follows:

Senate amendment:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Testing, Rapid Analysis, and Narcotic Quality Research Act of 2023" or the "TRANQ Research Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. XYLAZINE DETECTION AND ANALYSIS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DIRECTOR.—The term "Director" means the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(2) FEDERAL LABORATORY.—The term "Federal laboratory" has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Stevenson-Wylder Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3703).

(3) INSTITUTE.—The term "Institute" means the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term "institution of higher education" has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (19 U.S.C. 1001).

(5) NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION.—The term "nonprofit organization" means an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such code.

(6) XYLAZINE.—The term "xylazine" means the nonopioid tranquilizer methyl benzene compound frequently used in veterinary medicine as an emetic and sedative with analgesic and muscle relaxant properties.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall—

(1) support intramural basic measurement science and research of the Institute to advance—

(A) analytical methods to identify, understand, differentiate, and categorize substances containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or other new psychoactive substances;

(B) measurement technologies to shorten analysis timelines and enhance narcotic and opioid detection and analysis capabilities;

(C) new data tools, techniques, and processes to identify and publicly disclose relevant information concerning substances containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or other new psychoactive substances; and

(D) such other areas as the Director determines to be critical to the development and deployment of technologies to measure and analyze the presence of xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other new psychoactive substances;

(2) support activities to inform and expand the development of near-real time spectrometry capabilities regarding xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other new psychoactive substances;

(3) convene and consult with organizations engaged in the analysis of new psychoactive substances to develop coordinated strategies and voluntary best practices for the safe handling, transport, data-sharing, and analysis of substances containing xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, or other new psychoactive substances, including—

(A) the Drug Enforcement Administration;

(B) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(C) the National Institute on Drug Abuse;

(D) Federal laboratories;

(E) States and territories;

(F) State fusion centers;

(G) the private sector;

(H) intergovernmental organizations;

(I) institutions of higher education, and

(J) nonprofit organizations;

(4) establish or expand collaborative partnerships or consortia with other government agencies and persons engaged in related research and development, such as institutions of higher education, Federal laboratories, public health agencies, intergovernmental organizations, and the private sector, to enhance narcotic and opioid detection and analysis capabilities regarding xylazine, novel synthetic opioids, and other new psychoactive substances; and

(5) encourage graduate and post-graduate research to include detection and identification of xylazine and other new psychoactive substances in relevant course studies when practicable.

(c) CONTROLS.—In carrying out activities under this section, the Director shall ensure proper security controls are implemented to protect sensitive information, as the Director considers appropriate and consistent with applicable provisions of law.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Commerce,

Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report on the implementation of this section. Such report may include recommendations for legislative action to improve the ability of the Director to carry out this section.

SEC. 3. STUDY ON UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT TECHNOLOGIES AND ANALYTICAL METHODS TO DETECT AND IDENTIFY NEW PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) *IN GENERAL.*—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the capabilities of the Federal Government to respond to the threats of new psychoactive substances such as xylazine.

(2) *MATTERS EVALUATED.*—The study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include an evaluation of the following:

(A) The capabilities, including technologies and analytical methods, of Federal, State, and local agencies to detect and identify new psychoactive substances such as xylazine.

(B) An analysis of timeframes for identification and development of technologies and methods to identify new psychoactive substances by Federal, State, and local agencies.

(C) Facilities, including laboratories, used by Federal, State, and local agencies for the identification of new psychoactive substances such as xylazine.

(D) Federal grant programs to fund new technology development to detect and identify new psychoactive substances.

(b) *REPORT.*—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives a report containing the findings of the Comptroller General with respect to the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ELLZEY). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LOFGREN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1734, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1734, the TRANQ Research Act sponsored by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS).

This is an important bill that will help us combat the dangers of novel synthetic opioids. Unfortunately, there is no area of our country that hasn't been touched by the deadly fentanyl epidemic. Now these drugs are being mixed with animal tranquilizers to create deadly new combinations.

Drugs like tranq are presenting new challenges to law enforcement, healthcare professionals, and first responders. H.R. 1734 authorizes critical research and development to help us better understand, detect, and handle

these drugs. With that knowledge, we can help to slow their spread and reduce lives lost to these deadly drugs.

This bill takes advantage of the tremendous expertise of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which is already doing cutting-edge work on detecting and analyzing fentanyl. With the passage of the TRANQ Research Act, NIST will be able to apply their expertise to these dangerous new variants.

This bill authorizes NIST's work to quickly identify illicit drugs, analyze them, and establish best practices for first responders to handle these dangerous substances. By doing that, it provides critical protections for the police officers and EMTs that encounter these drugs, helping them to stay safe and protected as they do their work. It will also give us the knowledge we need to stop the spread of tranq and other novel synthetic opioids.

This bill has already passed the House with a unanimous bipartisan vote of 425-0. I would like to see that same level of backing today.

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

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

I rise today in support of this bill that I proudly cosponsored. I also thank my colleagues, Representatives CARAVEO and COLLINS, for leading this legislation, as well as Chairman LUCAS for his support. I also thank Senators PETER WELCH and TED CRUZ over in the other body for their work.

Synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl, have taken a terrible toll on communities across this country, including in my own district. Fentanyl is now involved in more deaths of Americans under 50 than any other cause of death.

This epidemic is a horrifying ordeal, and now our communities must deal with various chemicals being added to these drugs to enhance their effects and also make them harder to detect. One chemical that criminals have started to use is a common animal tranquilizer called xylazine. When added to fentanyl, this animal tranquilizer can have terrible side effects, including horrible wounds at the injection site.

These additives are also consequential to our first responders and law enforcement as they deal with these drugs on the street. Drug mixtures usually contain a very small amount of synthetic opioids, which makes it very difficult to detect and hard to identify new variants. Even small amounts of some substances can be dangerous for law enforcement and public health officials to handle.

H.R. 1734 would address these challenges by leveraging the National Institute of Standards and Technology's unique research capabilities to help develop technologies to quickly characterize and safely handle street drugs. For decades, the Nation's measurement laboratory has helped to develop safe and effective drug detection techniques

and handling practices. NIST also collects and analyzes drug samples in circulation, and this helps health authorities and law enforcement to better respond to this crisis. This bill would codify and enhance those ongoing efforts. It also adds reporting requirements for NIST and the GAO so that Congress can better understand our Federal capabilities in responding to this crisis.

This is a good example of how we can activate the unique expertise in our government labs to benefit communities across this country. It is also a good example of the bipartisan work that we do in the Science Committee. I thank my colleagues again, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) to speak on his bill.

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding and for his leadership on the Science Committee. It is great serving with him on the committee of the future.

I rise in support of the TRANQ Research Act, which I introduced in March. It passed the Science Committee and the House unanimously. It then passed the Senate unanimously after it had been amended to include some technical changes and a reporting requirement on America's ability to address the growing threat of new psychoactive drugs. I support these changes, and I ask all Members to join me in sending this commonsense bill to the President for his signature.

As you will recall, the TRANQ Research Act directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology to study dangerous fentanyl additives like xylazine that are putting the public and law enforcement at risk.

Xylazine, which is also known as the zombie drug, is a dangerous substance containing a veterinary tranquilizer which makes fentanyl even more dangerous than it already is. The zombie drug has been popping up in nearly every State, and the DEA is reporting a substantial increase in the amount of fentanyl seized that contains this deadly additive.

Exposure—and that is right, just exposure—to these drugs, whether you are taking them or not, can be deadly, and that means that law enforcement officers who are finding these drugs are in danger. This research is going to help them identify ways to detect fentanyl and its additives in the field and therefore take appropriate measures to protect themselves while keeping our communities safe.

Mr. Speaker, this bill is one piece of a much larger fight against fentanyl and the other drugs plaguing our communities and ending so many lives prematurely. By understanding what these additives are, how to test for them, and how to safely handle them, we can better protect our first responders and our Border Patrol agents.

I thank everyone who has made this moment possible: Representative

CARAVEO, Chairman LUCAS, Ranking Member LOFGREN, members of the Science Committee. I thank them for helping get this bill across the finish line.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, as Mr. COLLINS has just remarked, he and Dr. CARAVEO took the lead on this legislation. We are grateful and fortunate, indeed, that Dr. CARAVEO is here in our body, dedicated to our constituents, but also bringing the expertise that a medical doctor can have to an item like this.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. CARAVEO).

Ms. CARAVEO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1734, the TRANQ Research Act. I also thank my colleagues, Congressman MIKE COLLINS, Chairman FRANK LUCAS, and Ranking Member ZOE LOFGREN for working with me to run this bipartisan legislation. I also thank Senators PETER WELCH and TED CRUZ for moving this bill through the Senate.

As a doctor, I have seen firsthand the horrific impact the drug crisis has had on families in my community and across the country. Last year alone, more than 107,000 Americans lost their lives to drug overdoses, due in large part to the crisis.

Fentanyl is a drug with very high potency that is relatively easy to manufacture, and criminals making fentanyl can add different chemicals to change its molecular structure, creating a variant that is novel and difficult to detect.

Just in the past year, we have seen a dramatic increase in criminals mixing a common animal tranquilizer called xylazine with fentanyl. If injected, this combination can have horrible side effects, including large wounds at the injection site that have led to limb amputations.

Horribly, tranq is already spreading across the country. Having seen the disastrous effect fentanyl has had on Colorado, I am proud to lead the charge to act against xylazine now to protect our families.

One of the major challenges we face to combat drugs like fentanyl and xylazine is detecting them. These drug mixtures usually contain a very small amount of the drug, and traditional laboratory methods are not designed to detect or identify new drug variants.

The TRANQ Research Act addresses this challenge by leveraging our Nation's scientific capabilities to allow our first responders to be able to detect, identify, and better understand novel opioids and other substances. Additionally, thanks to our partners in the Senate, the bill will also help Congress conduct oversight over Federal programs to respond to threats from new psychoactive substances like xylazine.

We know combating the drug crisis will take bipartisan action. I look forward to continuing to work with Congressman COLLINS and my colleagues

to get this bill signed by the President and to keep pushing for commonsense solutions that both parties can agree on to keep American families safe. I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I note that when this bill is signed by the President, it will be the first bill introduced by a freshman in the 118th Congress to become law. I congratulate the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS) for this achievement. I think it is a reflection of just how important this topic is, and I am so glad our colleagues have all recognized the growing dangers of novel synthetic opioids and have given this bill such strong support.

Again, I thank Representative COLLINS and my colleagues for everything they have done to help support this. I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 1734.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendment was concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

DOE AND USDA INTERAGENCY RESEARCH ACT

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1713) to provide for Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture joint research and development activities, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1713

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 “DOE and USDA Interagency Research Act”.

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE JOINT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Agriculture (in this section referred to as the “Secretaries”) shall carry out cross-cutting and collaborative research and development activities focused on the joint advancement of Department of Energy and Department of Agriculture mission requirements and priorities.

(b) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The Secretaries shall carry out and coordinate the activities under subsection (a) through the establishment of a memorandum of understanding, or other appropriate inter-

agency agreement. Such memorandum or agreement shall require the use of a competitive, merit-reviewed process, which considers applications from Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions, and other appropriate entities.

(c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out the activities under subsection (a), the Secretaries may—

(1) conduct collaborative research over a variety of focus areas, such as—

(A) modeling and simulation, machine learning, artificial intelligence, data assimilation, large scale data analytics, and predictive analysis in order to optimize algorithms for purposes related to agriculture and energy, such as life cycle analysis of agricultural or energy systems;

(B) fundamental agricultural, biological, computational, and environmental science and engineering, including advanced crop science, crop protection, breeding, and biological pest control, in collaboration with the program authorized under section 306 of the Department of Energy Research and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 18644);

(C) integrated natural resources and the energy-water nexus, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 1010 of the Energy Act of 2020 (enacted as division Z of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (42 U.S.C. 16183));

(D) advanced biomass, biobased products, and biofuels, including in collaboration with the activities authorized under section 9008(b) of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 (7 U.S.C. 8108(b));

(E) diverse feedstocks for economically and environmentally sustainable fuels, including aviation and naval fuels;

(F) colocation of agricultural resources and activities and ecosystem services with diverse energy technologies and resources, such as geothermal energy, nuclear energy, solar energy, wind energy, natural gas, hydropower, and energy storage;

(G) colocation of agricultural resources and activities with carbon storage and utilization technologies;

(H) invasive species management to further the work done by the Federal Interagency Committee for the Management of Noxious and Exotic Weeds;

(I) long-term and high-risk technological barriers in the development of transformative science and technology solutions in the agriculture and energy sectors, including in collaboration with the program authorized under section 5012 of the America COMPETES Act (42 U.S.C. 16538);

(J) grid modernization and grid security;

(K) rural technology development, including manufacturing, precision agriculture technologies, and mechanization and automation technologies; and

(L) wildfire risks and prevention, including the power sector's role in fire prevention and mitigation and wildfire impacts on energy infrastructure;

(2) develop methods to accommodate large voluntary standardized and integrated data sets on agricultural, environmental, supply chain, and economic information with variable accuracy and scale;

(3) promote collaboration, open community-based development, and data and information sharing between Federal agencies, National Laboratories, institutions of higher education, nonprofit institutions, industry partners, and other appropriate entities by providing reliable access to secure data and information that are in compliance with Federal rules and regulations;

(4) support research infrastructure and workforce development as the Secretaries determine necessary; and