

CONTRABAND AWARENESS TECHNOLOGY CATCHES
HARMFUL FENTANYL ACT

AUGUST 15, 2025.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. GARBARINO, from the Committee on Homeland Security,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 1569]

[Including cost estimate of the Congressional Budget Office]

The Committee on Homeland Security, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 1569) to establish a pilot program to assess the use of technology to speed up and enhance the cargo inspection process at land ports of entry along the border, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

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PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 1569, the “Contraband Awareness Technology Catches Harmful Fentanyl Act,” or “CATCH Fentanyl Act,” establishes a

five-year pilot program within U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CPB) to test technology enhancements for inspecting vehicles and cargo at land ports of entry. The bill would require CBP to evaluate the effectiveness of at least five types of Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology enhancements that can be deployed at land ports of entry. Additionally, this legislation increases Congressional oversight by requiring CBP to report to Congress on the effectiveness of the technologies in the program, any recommendations from the testing of technologies, and a plan to utilize the technologies.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

U.S. Customs and Border Protection is at the forefront in the fight against the opioid epidemic. CBP deploys NII technology to detect illegal drugs, as well as currency, contraband, and people being smuggled or trafficked into the United States at ports of entry. Fentanyl is highly lethal and as little as two milligrams is considered a potentially lethal dose.¹ From May 2022 to May 2023 alone, CBP seized approximately 27,900 pounds of fentanyl.² During this same period, the United States suffered over 112,000 overdose deaths, with the vast majority of those deaths attributed to synthetic opioids, such as fentanyl.³ Fentanyl poisoning is the leading cause of death in the United States for adults aged 18–45.

It is evident from fentanyl seizures and overdose deaths throughout the country that more needs to be done to stop fentanyl at the border. H.R. 1569 will enhance CBP's efforts to maximize screening capabilities at ports of entry and ensure that our front-line officers have access to the most up-to-date, effective, and efficient technology to detect and stop fentanyl before it enters the United States.

HEARINGS

The Committee held the following hearings in the 119th Congress that informed H.R. 1569:

On March 5, 2025, the Committee held a hearing entitled “Countering Threats Posed by the Chinese Communist Party to U.S. National Security.” The Committee received testimony from Dr. Michael Pillsbury, Senior Fellow, China Strategy, The Heritage Foundation, who testified as a private citizen; Mr. Craig Singleton, China Program Senior Director and Senior Fellow, Foundation for Defense of Democracies; the Honorable Bill Evanina, Founder and CEO, the Evanina Group; and Dr. Rush Doshi, Assistant Professor of Security Studies, Georgetown University Walsh School of Foreign Service, C.V. Starr Senior Fellow for Asia Studies and Director of the China Strategy Initiative, Council on Foreign Relations, who testified as a private citizen.

On March 25, 2025, the Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement held a hearing entitled “Part 1: Consequences of Failure: How Biden’s Policies Fueled the Border Crisis.” The Sub-

¹ U.S. Drug Enforcement Admin., Facts About Fentanyl, <https://www.dea.gov/resources/facts-about-fentanyl> (last visited May 13, 2025).

² U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Drug Seizure Statistics, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/drug-seizure-statistics> (last visited May 13, 2025).

³ Musa, US overdose deaths continue their rise, data shows, with ‘devastating impact’ on population. KDRV.com (October 11, 2023) https://www.kdrv.com/news/us-overdose-deaths-continue-their-rise-data-shows-with-devastating-impact-on-population/article_8935a784-1a88-524a-94cd-c20417922dc8.html.

committee received testimony from Ms. Lora Reis, Director, Border Security and Immigration Center, The Heritage Foundation, who testified as a private citizen; Mr. Ammon Blair, Senior Fellow, Secure and Sovereign Texas Initiative, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Mr. Jon Anfinson, Executive Vice President, National Border Patrol Council; and Mr. Aaron Reichlin-Melnick, Senior Fellow, American Immigration Council.

COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

The Committee met on April 9, 2025, a quorum being present, to consider H.R. 1569 and ordered the measure to be favorably reported to the House by voice vote.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the recorded votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto.

No recorded votes were requested during consideration of H.R. 1569.

COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

In compliance with clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee advises that the findings and recommendations of the Committee, based on oversight activities under clause 2(b)(1) of rule X, are incorporated in the descriptive portions of this report.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE, NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

With respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII and section 308(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, and with respect to the requirements of clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII and section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, the Committee adopts as its own the estimate of any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures contained in the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office.

H.R. 1569, CATCH Fentanyl Act			
As ordered reported by the House Committee on Homeland Security on April 9, 2025			
By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2025	2025-2030	2025-2035
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	42	not estimated
Increases <i>net direct spending</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No
		Mandate Effects	
Increases <i>on-budget deficits</i> in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2036?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

H.R. 1569 would require Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to establish a pilot program to test technological enhancements for inspecting vehicles and cargo at land ports of entry. The bill would require CBP to evaluate the effectiveness of at least five technologies, including artificial intelligence, machine learning, and quantum information sciences, to detect contraband and increase the efficiency of inspections. H.R. 1569 also would require CBP to report to the Congress on the effectiveness of the technologies in the program and their effect on privacy and civil rights and liberties.

Using information from CBP, CBO estimates that the agency currently deploys three technologies that are compliant with the bill's requirements and would need to evaluate two additional types of technologies. Based on the costs of similar projects, CBO estimates that CBP would incur additional costs of about \$8 million annually to procure, deploy, and evaluate those technologies. Additionally, CBO estimates that it would cost less than \$500,000 to comply with the bill's reporting requirements. In total, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1569 would cost \$42 million over the 2025–2030 period. Any related spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 750 (administration of justice).

TABLE 1.—ESTIMATED INCREASES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION UNDER H.R. 1569

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars—						
	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2025–2030
Estimated Authorization	*	8	8	9	9	9	43
Estimated Outlays	*	7	8	9	9	9	42

* = between zero and \$500,000.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Jeremy Crimm. The estimate was reviewed by H. Samuel Papenfuss, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director, Congressional Budget Office.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995.

DUPLICATIVE FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 1569 does not contain any provision that establishes or reauthorizes a program known to be duplicative of another Federal program.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the objective of H.R. 1569 is to establish a pilot program to assess the use of technology to speed up and enhance the vehicle and cargo inspection process at land ports of entry along the border.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

In compliance with rule XXI, this bill, as reported, contains no congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9(d), 9(e), or 9(f) of rule XXI.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO THE LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that H.R. 1569 does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

This section states that the Act may be cited as the “Contraband Awareness Technology Catches Harmful Fentanyl Act” or the “CATCH Fentanyl Act”.

Section 2. Definitions

This section contains definitions for various terms used throughout the bill.

Section 3. Pilot projects allowing additional technology providers to participate in inspecting cars, trucks, and cargo containers at certain ports of entry

This section requires the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), acting through the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Innovation Team, and in coordination with the Office of Field Operations and the DHS Science and Technology Directorate, to implement, within one year after enactment, a pilot program to improve the process for inspection at land ports of entry. This section would require technologies tested and assessed under the program be for the purpose of assisting CBP in detecting contraband, human smuggling, illegal drugs and weapons or other threats. This section requires the CBP Innovation Team, in coordination with the DHS Science and Technology Directorate, to test technology from not fewer than one of the following categories: artificial intelligence, machine learning, high-performance computing, quantum information sciences, and other emerging technologies.

This section would require the pilot projects to identify the most effective types of technology enhancements based on their ability to: detect contraband and threats, address long wait times, improve aging equipment, integrate into existing infrastructure, incorporate automatic threat recognition, and other measures identified by the CBP Innovation Team.

This pilot project would terminate five years after enactment.

This section would require a report to Congress no later than three years after enactment of this Act, and 180 days after the termination of the pilot program which: analyze the effectiveness of the technology used in the pilot program, recommendations on the ability to utilize the technology, a plan to utilize new technologies that meet the performance goals, and a list of technologies owned and utilized by CBP for cargo and vehicle inspection. The report would also be required to include an analysis of quantitative performance measures for the technologies. This section would require separate reports on the potential privacy, civil liberties, and civil rights impacts of technologies being tested under this pilot program.

This section would prohibit additional funds from being authorized to carry out this Act.