

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4491

To designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2020

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself and Mr. GRASSLEY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Methamphetamine Re-
5 sponse Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Methamphetamine poses a significant public
9 health and safety threat and qualifies as an emerg-
10 ing drug threat, as defined in section 702 of the Of-

1 fice of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization
2 Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701).

3 (2) Methamphetamine treatment admissions in-
4 creased from 15.1 percent of all admissions in 2008
5 to 23.6 percent in 2017, the latest year for which
6 data is available.

7 (3) During the timeframe described in para-
8 graph (2)—

9 (A) methamphetamine-related treatment
10 admissions among women increased from 19.2
11 percent of all drug-related treatment admissions
12 to 28.3 percent; and

13 (B) heroin use among those admitted for
14 methamphetamine-related treatment increased
15 from 5.3 percent to 23.6 percent.

16 (4) By the end of 2019, methamphetamine
17 availability, use, purity, and potency had increased
18 nationally, as street-level prices declined.

19 (5) Methamphetamine use is a nationwide issue.
20 Its use remains widespread in Midwest and Western
21 States and is becoming increasingly prevalent in
22 Northeastern States.

23 (6) Methamphetamine is the drug most often
24 associated with violent crime.

1 (7) According to the Centers for Disease Con-
2 trol and Prevention—

3 (A) between 2018 and 2019, drug overdose
4 deaths involving methamphetamine and other
5 stimulants increased by 27 percent nationally;

6 (B) the number of deaths described in sub-
7 paragraph (A) increased in 27 of the 38 States
8 that provide drug-specific overdose data to the
9 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
10 and

11 (C) between January 2019 and January
12 2020, among 36 States and the District of Co-
13 lumbia, suspected stimulant overdoses, includ-
14 ing methamphetamine, treated in emergency de-
15 partments increased by 23 percent.

16 (8) Methamphetamine-related overdose deaths
17 will likely continue to increase in 2020, due in part
18 to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic, which makes
19 obtaining treatment for substance use disorders, in-
20 cluding methamphetamine use, more difficult.

21 (9) The increase in methamphetamine use and
22 the negative respiratory and pulmonary health ef-
23 fects associated with its use has caused the National
24 Institute on Drug Abuse to warn clinicians to be
25 prepared to monitor adverse effects when treating

1 individuals using methamphetamine who also have
2 COVID-19.

3 (10) Since the onset of COVID-19 in the
4 United States, the number of law enforcement and
5 first responder agencies entering data into nation-
6 wide overdose mapping applications to track real-
7 time suspected overdoses, including methamphet-
8 amine overdoses, has increased.

9 (11) In the first 9 months of fiscal year 2020,
10 there was a 52 percent increase in the amount of
11 methamphetamine seized by U.S. Customs and Bor-
12 der Protection.

13 (12) Public reports indicated that Mexican car-
14 tels may be stockpiling illicit drugs, including meth-
15 amphetamine, on the Mexican side of the Southwest
16 Border and could flood cities across the United
17 States with these narcotics once the COVID-19 pan-
18 demic ends or when restrictions at ports of entry at
19 the U.S.-Mexico border loosen.

20 (13) Intentional preparation to counter any
21 surges in production, distribution, and use are essen-
22 tial in lowering methamphetamine-related overdose
23 deaths and substance use disorders.

1 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF EMERGING THREAT.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Congress declares methamphet-
3 amine an emerging drug threat, as defined in section 702
4 of the Office of National Drug Control Policy Reauthor-
5 ization Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701), in the United
6 States.

7 (b) REQUIRED EMERGING THREAT RESPONSE
8 PLAN.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enact-
9 ment of this Act, the Director of the Office of National
10 Drug Control Policy shall establish and implement an
11 Emerging Threat Response Plan that is specific to meth-
12 amphetamine in accordance with section 709(d) of the Of-
13 fice of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization Act
14 of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1708(d)).

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