

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4612

AN ACT

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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

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

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Methamphetamine poses a significant public
7 health and safety threat and qualifies as an emerg-
8 ing drug threat, as defined in section 702 of the Of-
9 fice of National Drug Control Policy Reauthorization
10 Act of 1998 (21 U.S.C. 1701).

11 (2) Methamphetamine treatment admissions in-
12 creased from 15.1 percent of all admissions in 2008
13 to 23.6 percent in 2017, the latest year for which
14 data is available.

15 (3) During the timeframe described in para-
16 graph (2)—

17 (A) methamphetamine-related treatment
18 admissions among women increased from 19.2
19 percent of all drug-related treatment admissions
20 to 28.3 percent; and

21 (B) heroin use among those admitted for
22 methamphetamine-related treatment increased
23 from 5.3 percent to 23.6 percent.

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

1 (5) Methamphetamine use is a nationwide issue.
2 Its use remains widespread in Midwest and Western
3 States and is becoming increasingly prevalent in
4 Northeastern States.

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

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

9 (A) between 2018 and 2019, drug overdose
10 deaths involving methamphetamine and other
11 stimulants increased by 27 percent nationally;

12 (B) the number of deaths described in sub-
13 paragraph (A) increased in 27 of the 38 States
14 that provide drug-specific overdose data to the
15 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;
16 and

17 (C) between January 2019 and January
18 2020, among 36 States and the District of Co-
19 lumbia, suspected stimulant overdoses, includ-
20 ing methamphetamine, treated in emergency de-
21 partments increased by 23 percent.

22 (8) Methamphetamine-related overdose deaths
23 will likely continue to increase in 2020, due in part
24 to the ongoing COVID–19 pandemic, which makes

1 obtaining treatment for substance use disorders, in-
2 cluding methamphetamine use, more difficult.

3 (9) The increase in methamphetamine use and
4 the negative respiratory and pulmonary health ef-
5 fects associated with its use has caused the National
6 Institute on Drug Abuse to warn clinicians to be
7 prepared to monitor adverse effects when treating
8 individuals using methamphetamine who also have
9 COVID-19.

10 (10) Since the onset of COVID-19 in the
11 United States, the number of law enforcement and
12 first responder agencies entering data into nation-
13 wide overdose mapping applications to track real-
14 time suspected overdoses, including methamphet-
15 amine overdoses, has increased.

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

20 (12) Public reports indicate that Mexican car-
21 tels may be stockpiling money and illicit drugs, in-
22 cluding methamphetamine, on both sides of the
23 Southwest Border and that the Drug Enforcement
24 Administration is preparing to respond to any poten-
25 tial surge in supply.

1 (13) Intentional preparation to counter any
2 surges in production, distribution, and use are essen-
3 tial in lowering methamphetamine-related overdose
4 deaths and substance use disorders.

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

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

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

Passed the Senate November 16, 2020.

Attest:

Secretary.

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