

Stop Smuggling Illicit Synthetic Drugs on U.S. Transportation Networks Act of 2024 (S. 5284)

Sens. Maria Cantwell, Jon Tester, Jacky Rosen, Tammy Baldwin, Ben Ray Luján

- Directs the Office of National Drug Control Policy to develop a comprehensive national strategy to prevent the smuggling of illicit synthetic drugs using the U.S. transportation network.
- Directs the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) and the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to develop a joint strategy to accelerate the development and deployment of emerging, non-intrusive technologies including through the integration of artificial intelligence (AI) and quantum hybrid computing to detect illicit synthetic drugs.
- Requires the National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish a program to support and strengthen collaborations across disciplines to develop technologies and social science approaches to combat trafficking of illicit synthetic drugs
- Requires Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to carry out non-intrusive inspections of 100 percent of motor vehicles and railroads entering the United States at all land ports of entry to detect illicit synthetic drugs within 5 years. CBP would phase in similar inspections of civil air cargo and maritime cargo at ports of entry within 10 years.
- Establishes four, transportation-mode-specific, inspection programs to prevent the interstate smuggling of illicit synthetic drugs, including fentanyl, via U.S. transportation networks.
- Inspection programs would involve using non-intrusive technologies and canines to conduct inspections of cargo transported via civil aircraft, passenger and freight rail, commercial motor vehicles, and maritime vessels. State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement would carry out inspections in coordination with federal law enforcement authorities. In some instances, inspections would be conducted by federal law enforcement. Inspections would be required to not unduly delay the movement of goods.
- Authorizes Secretary of Homeland Security to provide grants to state, local, tribal and territorial (SLTT) law enforcement to acquire non-intrusive technology and canines and provide training to implement the programs.
- Requires Coast Guard to develop a strategy to increase maritime interdictions of illicit synthetic drugs.
- Directs the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) to expand assistance to state, local, and tribal forensics labs and state, local and tribal authorities to improve processing of evidence of crimes and deaths involving illicit synthetic drugs including fentanyl.

- Directs NIST to carry out a pilot program to develop a regional network of Strategic Emerging Drug Laboratories to gather and publish information relating to emerging trends in illicit drug use and trafficking to law enforcement, medical personnel, and forensic laboratories in real time.
- Directs the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to develop a public service announcement campaign communicating the dangers of driving while under the influence of synthetic opioids.
- Requires the Director of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) to establish a public-private task force to improve information and data sharing and increase private sector engagement to prevent the trafficking of illicit synthetic drugs including fentanyl.
- Directs ONDCP to coordinate with SLTT law enforcement and federal agencies to promote interagency sharing of data and intelligence relating to the transportation of illicit synthetic drugs using the national transportation network.