



American Cooperation with our Neighbors Act of 2025

Summary and Objective: This bipartisan bill, introduced by U.S. Representatives Greg Stanton (D-Ariz.) and Thomas Kean Jr. (R-N.J.) will direct the State Department to create a strategy for cooperation between the United States and Mexico to stop illicit fentanyl trafficking. Such strategy should include data sharing, technical coordination between law enforcement at the border, and general coordination to address issues that arise due to fentanyl and synthetic opioids.

This bill also directs State and the Department of the Treasury to review expanding the access of Caribbean countries to financial markets—including a review of how such countries enforce international law, compliance standards, and narcotrafficking reporting requirements.

Background: The United States is currently battling an opioid crisis, with illicit fentanyl playing a significant role in escalating overdose deaths. Fentanyl - a drug that is 50 times stronger than heroin and 100 times stronger than morphine - is responsible for over 150 lives lost every day.

In the 118th Congress, this bill (H.R. 2789) passed the House Foreign Affairs Committee by voice vote, and the full House by a vote of 368 - 18.

Why this is important:

- **National Security:** Illicit fentanyl is manufactured in Mexico and trafficked across the border, enriching cartels. This bill would lead to coordinated law enforcement efforts to more effectively address narcotrafficking.
- **Comprehensive approach:** While Mexico and the U.S. collaborate to address the illicit flow of fentanyl on a federal level, there's need for enhanced cooperation between state and local governments and public and private partners on the front lines of the crisis. This includes state and local law enforcement and security forces to stop narcotrafficking and money laundering, and civil society and faith-based organizations to combat addiction.
- **Addressing migration:** Many migrants come to the U.S. because of security conditions or the lack of economic opportunity in their home country. Addressing the fentanyl crisis would improve the security situation, while appropriately expanding access to financial markets in the Caribbean would help people more easily operate business in their home country.