

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6039

To advance commonsense priorities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 12, 2025

Mr. MCGOVERN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Small Business, Appropriations, Ethics, Education and Workforce, the Judiciary, Veterans' Affairs, Natural Resources, House Administration, Science, Space, and Technology, Energy and Commerce, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Oversight and Government Reform, Agriculture, Armed Services, Foreign Affairs, Intelligence (Permanent Select), Homeland Security, Rules, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To advance commonsense priorities.

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 “Commonsense Legis-
5 lating Act”.

TITLE I**SEC. 101. EXTENSION OF FAST PROGRAM.**

Section 34(i) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657d(i)) is amended by striking “September 30, 2005” and inserting “September 30, 2030”.

SEC. 102. APPLICATION ASSISTANCE TO BROADEN PARTICIPATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 9(mm)(1) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 638(mm)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (J), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (K), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(L) providing small business concerns with assistance applying to the SBIR program or STTR program of the Federal agency, including providing such assistance to carry out the policy directive required under paragraphs (2)(F) or (5) of subsection (j) and subsection (p)(2)(H) to increase the participation of States with respect to which a low level of SBIR or STTR awards have historically been awarded.”.

1 (b) ENHANCED MINORITY INSTITUTION PARTICIPA-
2 TION.—

3 (1) SBIR.—Section 9(j) of the Small Business
4 Act (15 U.S.C. 638(j)), is amended by adding at the
5 end the following new paragraph:

6 “(5) INCREASED OUTREACH REQUIREMENTS.—
7 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
8 ment of this paragraph, the Administration shall
9 modify the policy directives issued pursuant to this
10 subsection to require enhanced outreach efforts to
11 increase the participation of individuals conducting
12 research at minority institutions (as defined in sec-
13 tion 365 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
14 U.S.C. 1067k)) and Hispanic-serving institutions (as
15 defined in section 502(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C.
16 1101a(a))) in SBIR programs.”.

17 (2) STTR.—Section 9(p)(2) of the Small Busi-
18 ness Act (15 U.S.C. 638(p)(2)) is amended—

19 (A) in subparagraph (F), by striking
20 “and” at the end;

21 (B) in subparagraph (G)(iii), by striking
22 the period at the end and inserting “; and”;
23 and

24 (C) by adding at the end the following new
25 subparagraph:

“(H) procedures for outreach efforts to increase the participation of individuals conducting research at minority institutions (as defined in section 365 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067k)) and Hispanic-serving institutions (as defined in section 16502(a) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a))) in STTR programs.”.

TITLE II

SEC. 201. NATIVE AMERICAN TOURISM GRANT PROGRAMS.

The Native American Tourism and Improving Visitor Experience Act (25 U.S.C. 4351 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 6 (25 U.S.C. 4355) as section 7; and

(2) by inserting after section 5 (25 U.S.C. 4354) the following:

“SEC. 6. NATIVE AMERICAN TOURISM GRANT PROGRAMS.

“(a) BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS PROGRAM.—The Director of the Bureau of Indian Affairs may make grants to and enter into agreements with Indian tribes and tribal organizations to carry out the purposes of this Act, as described in section 2.

“(b) OFFICE OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN RELATIONS.—The Director of the Office of Native Hawaiian Relations may make grants to and enter into agreements with Na-

1 tive Hawaiian organizations to carry out the purposes of
2 this Act, as described in section 2.

3 “(c) OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The heads of
4 other Federal agencies, including the Secretaries of Com-
5 merce, Transportation, Agriculture, Health and Human
6 Services, and Labor, may make grants under this author-
7 ity to and enter into agreements with Indian tribes, tribal
8 organizations, and Native Hawaiian organizations to carry
9 out the purposes of this Act, as described in section 2.

10 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
11 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
12 \$35,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2026 through
13 2030.”.

14 **TITLE III**

15 **SEC. 301. ELIGIBILITY OF SPOUSES OF MILITARY PER-** 16 **SONNEL FOR THE WORK OPPORTUNITY** 17 **CREDIT.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 51(d) of
19 the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking
20 “or” at the end of subparagraph (I), by striking the period
21 at the end of subparagraph (J) and inserting “, or”, and
22 by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

23 “(K) a qualified military spouse.”.

1 (b) QUALIFIED MILITARY SPOUSE.—Subsection (d)
 2 of section 51 of such Code is amended by adding at the
 3 end the following new paragraph:

4 “(16) QUALIFIED MILITARY SPOUSE.—The
 5 term ‘qualified military spouse’ means any individual
 6 who is certified by the designated local agency as
 7 being (as of the hiring date) a spouse of a member
 8 of the Armed Forces of the United States.”.

9 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 10 this section shall apply to amounts paid or incurred after
 11 the date of the enactment of this Act to individuals who
 12 begin work for the employer after such date.

13 TITLE IV

14 **SEC. 401. MENTAL HEALTH CONSULTATIONS AND OUT-**
 15 **REACH TO A VETERAN RECEIVING COM-**
 16 **PENSATION FOR A SERVICE-CONNECTED DIS-**
 17 **ABILITY RELATING TO A MENTAL HEALTH DI-**
 18 **AGNOSIS.**

19 (a) ANNUAL CONSULTATION; OUTREACH.—The sec-
 20 tion 1167 of title 38, United States Code, relating to men-
 21 tal health consultations is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a), in the subsection heading,
 23 by striking “IN GENERAL” and inserting “INITIAL
 24 CONSULTATION”;

1 (2) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as
2 subsections (c) and (d), respectively;

3 (3) by inserting after subsection (a) the fol-
4 lowing new subsection (b):

5 “(b) ANNUAL CONSULTATION; OUTREACH.—Not less
6 frequently than once each year, the Secretary shall, with
7 regards to a veteran who is receiving compensation under
8 this chapter for a service-connected disability relating to
9 a mental health diagnosis—

10 “(1) offer a mental health consultation to as-
11 sess the mental health needs of, and discuss other
12 mental health care options for, the veteran; and

13 “(2) conduct outreach regarding the availability
14 of—

15 “(A) consultations under paragraph (1);
16 and

17 “(B) other mental health services fur-
18 nished by the Secretary.”;

19 (4) in subsection (c), as redesignated by para-
20 graph (2), by inserting “or (b)” after “under sub-
21 section (a)” both places it appears; and

22 (5) in subsection (d), as redesignated by para-
23 graph (2), by inserting “, or to require the reevalua-
24 tion of any entitlement of the veteran to compensa-

1 tion under this chapter” before the period at the
2 end.

3 (b) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—

4 (1) REDESIGNATION.—Such section, as amend-
5 ed, is redesignated as section 1169 of such title.

6 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of sec-
7 tions at the beginning of chapter 11 of such title is
8 amended—

9 (A) by striking the item relating to the sec-
10 tion 1167 that relates to mental health con-
11 sultations; and

12 (B) by inserting after the item relating to
13 section 1168 the following new item:

“1169. Mental health consultations.”.

14 (c) GAO REVIEW.—Not later than two years after
15 the date of the enactment of this section, the Comptroller
16 General of the United States shall submit to the Commit-
17 tees on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and House of Rep-
18 resentatives a report on the effect of the amendments
19 made by this section. Elements of such report shall in-
20 clude—

21 (1) the number of veterans who received—

22 (A) mental health consultations under
23 paragraph (1) of subsection (b) of section 1169
24 of such title; and

1 (B) outreach under paragraph (2) of such
 2 subsection;

3 (2) whether veterans reported barriers to seek-
 4 ing such consultations; and

5 (3) such barriers, if any.

6 **TITLE V**

7 **SEC. 501. PRIVATE OR COMMERCIAL INTERSTATE CARRIER** 8 **PROTECTIONS.**

9 (a) OBSTRUCTION OF MATTER LEFT FOR COLLEC-
 10 TION.—Section 659 of title 18, United States Code, is
 11 amended—

12 (1) at the end of the fourth paragraph, by
 13 striking “—” and inserting “; or”; and

14 (2) by inserting after paragraph four the fol-
 15 lowing new paragraph:

16 “Whoever embezzles, steals, or unlawfully takes,
 17 carries away, or by fraud or deception obtains, any
 18 package, or other article, which has been delivered
 19 by any private or commercial interstate carrier be-
 20 fore the addressee or his or her agent has taken
 21 physical possession—”.

22 **TITLE VI**

23 **SEC. 601. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.**

24 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
 25 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor,

1 in consultation with the Secretaries of Health and Human
2 Services, Education, Housing and Urban Development,
3 Commerce, Treasury, Transportation, and Agriculture
4 and the Administrator of the Small Business Administra-
5 tion, shall establish an Interagency National Task Force
6 on Working Families. The task force shall be titled the
7 “Working Families Task Force” and for purposes of this
8 Act be referred to as the “Task Force”.

9 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be com-
10 posed of not fewer than 10 members and shall include rep-
11 resentatives designated by the relevant Secretaries from
12 each of the following Federal agencies:

13 (1) The Department of Labor.

14 (2) The Department of Health and Human
15 Services.

16 (3) The Department of Education.

17 (4) The Department of Housing and Urban De-
18 velopment.

19 (5) The Department of Commerce.

20 (6) The Department of the Treasury.

21 (7) The Department of Transportation.

22 (8) The Department of Agriculture.

23 (9) The Small Business Administration.

24 (c) MEETINGS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall meet
2 not less than 1 time per quarter per calendar year.

3 (2) QUORUM.—Two-thirds of the members of
4 the Task Force shall constitute a quorum.

5 (d) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Task Force shall
6 be to—

7 (1) examine the challenges facing working fami-
8 lies; and

9 (2) develop recommendations to improve the
10 standard of living and quality of life for working
11 families.

12 (e) DUTIES.—The duties of the Task Force shall in-
13 clude the following:

14 (1) Identifying and evaluating key factors that
15 impact the standard of living for working families,
16 including—

17 (A) addressing affordability challenges re-
18 lated to various economic conditions, including
19 inflation;

20 (B) reducing barriers to economic mobility;

21 (C) improving access to quality jobs with
22 livable wages and strong labor standards;

23 (D) expanding affordable child care for all
24 families;

1 (E) improving incentives, including tax
2 policies such as the child tax credit, child and
3 dependent care tax credit, and earned income
4 tax credit, that assist children and families;

5 (F) supporting home care and medical care
6 for seniors and families that need assistance;

7 (G) mitigating barriers to more affordable
8 and higher quality health care and services;

9 (H) obtaining and building quality, afford-
10 able housing;

11 (I) expanding educational and workforce
12 training opportunities;

13 (J) increasing financial literacy and access
14 to financial services;

15 (K) accessing affordable and nutritious
16 food;

17 (L) reducing gaps in access to technology
18 and the internet that impact educational and
19 employment opportunities and health services;

20 (M) reducing environmental hazards and
21 creating a healthier environment;

22 (N) accessing affordable and renewable en-
23 ergy sources;

24 (O) accessing affordable, reliant, and effi-
25 cient transportation systems; and

1 (P) addressing the impacts of staffing and
2 funding cuts at Federal agencies.

3 (2) Assessing or developing a methodology to
4 assess how various macroeconomic conditions (which
5 may include unemployment, inflation, gross domestic
6 product, and monetary policy) affect quality of life
7 and affordability for working families.

8 (3) Assessing the effectiveness of current Fed-
9 eral policies and programs in helping working fami-
10 lies achieve an improved standard of living.

11 (4) Developing legislative and regulatory policy
12 recommendations to enhance the efforts of Federal
13 agencies and Congress to empower working families
14 to meet the challenges of current economic condi-
15 tions, raise their standards of living, and access the
16 benefits of economic growth.

17 (5) The Task Force shall consult with a wide-
18 ranging group of external stakeholders and public
19 experts in order to develop the recommendations re-
20 ferred to in paragraph (4).

21 (f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date
22 of enactment of this Act, the Task Force shall—

23 (1) submit to the appropriate congressional
24 committees a report on its most recent findings and
25 recommendations, which shall include a list of stake-

1 holders and public experts with which the Task
2 Force consulted and the meeting minutes for each
3 meeting of the Task Force; and

4 (2) make such report publicly available on the
5 website of the Task Force.

6 (g) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES
7 DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate con-
8 gressional committees” means the following:

9 (1) The Committee on Education and Work-
10 force of the House of Representatives and the Com-
11 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
12 of the Senate.

13 (2) The Committee on Transportation and In-
14 frastructure of the House of Representatives and the
15 Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
16 tation of the Senate.

17 (3) The Committee on Financial Services of the
18 House of Representatives and the Committee on Fi-
19 nance of the Senate.

20 (4) The Committee on Energy and Commerce
21 of the House of Representatives and the Committee
22 on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate.

23 (5) The Committee on Agriculture of the House
24 of Representatives and the Committee on Agri-
25 culture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

TITLE VII

SECTION 701. NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL FENTANYL DISRUPTION STEERING GROUP.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the National Security Council a Fentanyl Disruption Steering Group (in this section referred to as the “Steering Group”).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Steering Group shall be composed of—

(A) the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, who shall serve as chair; and

(B) a senior official from each of the agencies described in paragraph (2), to be appointed by the head of the respective agency of such official (and in the case of the intelligence community, to be appointed by the Director of National Intelligence).

(2) AGENCIES DESCRIBED.—The agencies described in this paragraph are the following:

(A) The Department of State.

(B) The Department of the Treasury.

(C) The Department of Defense.

(D) The Department of Justice.

1 (E) The Department of Commerce.

2 (F) The Department of Health and
3 Human Services.

4 (G) The Department of Transportation.

5 (H) The Department of Energy.

6 (I) The Department of Homeland Security.

7 (J) The intelligence community (as defined
8 in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of
9 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4))).

10 (K) The United States Postal Service.

11 (c) DUTIES.—The Steering Group shall have the fol-
12 lowing duties:

13 (1) Oversee implementation of the policy prior-
14 ities and directives undertaken by the agencies de-
15 scribed in subsection (b)(2) to combat fentanyl traf-
16 ficking and use.

17 (2) Identify and set goals for strategic disrup-
18 tion of fentanyl.

19 (3) Assist in ensuring that all of the available
20 resources and tools are brought to the efforts de-
21 scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2) in accordance with
22 strategic priorities.

23 (4) Oversee updates to and implementation of
24 the Strategy to Combat Fentanyl and Other Syn-

1 thetic Drugs of the United States Customs and Bor-
2 der Protection.

3 (5) Identify disagreements and challenges for
4 interagency review by the Steering Group.

5 (d) ANNUAL SUBMISSION OF DESCRIPTION OF INI-
6 TIATIVES.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
8 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
9 thereafter, the agencies described in subsection
10 (b)(2) shall submit to the chair of the Steering
11 Group a detailed description of the existing and
12 planned fusion cells, joint task forces, mission cen-
13 ters, and similar multi-department initiatives relat-
14 ing to fentanyl disruption of such agencies, including
15 an explanation of purposes, goals, and composition,
16 to support efforts to ensure appropriate
17 prioritization and resourcing and minimize duplica-
18 tion of efforts.

19 (2) FORM OF SUBMISSIONS.—The descriptions
20 described in paragraph (1) shall be submitted in un-
21 classified form but may include a classified annex.

22 (e) STRATEGIC PLAN FOR PUBLIC-PRIVATE PART-
23 NERSHIPS.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Steering Group shall
25 develop and maintain an ongoing strategic plan for

1 public-private partnerships between the agencies de-
2 scribed in subsection (b)(2) and private entities on
3 fentanyl trafficking disruption.

4 (2) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
5 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and
6 annually thereafter, the Steering Group shall submit
7 to Congress a report describing the strategic plan
8 referred to in paragraph (1).

9 **TITLE VIII**

10 **SEC. 801. HEARINGS.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each standing committee of the
12 House of Representatives shall hold a hearing on the im-
13 plementation of this Act within one year of enactment.

14 (b) EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.—Sub-
15 section (a) is enacted—

16 (1) as an exercise of rulemaking power of the
17 House of Representatives, and, as such, shall be con-
18 sidered as part of the rules of the House, and such
19 rules shall supersede any other rule of the House
20 only to the extent that rule is inconsistent therewith;
21 and

22 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional
23 right of either House to change such rules (so far
24 as relating to the procedure in such House) at any

1 time, in the same manner, and to the same extent
2 as in the case of any other rule of the House.

3 **TITLE IX**

4 **SEC. 901. CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.**

5 In rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Rep-
6 resentatives, strike clause 19 and insert the following:

7 “19.(a) A Member, Delegate, Resident Commis-
8 sioner, officer, or employee of the House may not serve
9 as an officer or director of any public company.

10 “(b) In paragraph (a), the term ‘public company’
11 means an issuer as defined in section 3 of the Securities
12 Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c)—

13 “(1) the securities of which are required to be
14 registered under section 12 of such Act (15 U.S.C.
15 78l); or

16 “(2) that is required to file reports under sec-
17 tion 15(d) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 78o(d)).

18 “(c) A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner,
19 officer, or employee of the House shall comply with regula-
20 tions issued and revised, as necessary, by the Committee
21 on Ethics regarding types of prohibited service or posi-
22 tions that could lead to conflicts of interest.”.

TITLE X**SEC. 1001. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.**

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

TITLE XI**SEC. 1101. APPROPRIATIONS.**

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2026, and for other purposes, namely:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DIABETES AND DIGESTIVE AND
KIDNEY DISEASES

For an additional amount for necessary expenses for carrying out section 301 and title IV of the Public Health Service Act with respect to diabetes and digestive and kidney diseases, \$1,000,000.

1 CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH SERVICE

2 SALARIES AND EXPENSES

3 For an additional amount for the Congressional Re-
4 search Service salaries and expenses, \$1,000,000.

5 SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

6 ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS

7 For an additional amount for necessary expenses of
8 programs supporting entrepreneurial and small business
9 development overseen by the Small Business Administra-
10 tion, \$1,000,000, to remain available until expended.

11 DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

12 OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

13 For an additional amount of expenses, not otherwise
14 provided for, necessary for the operations and mainte-
15 nance of the Marine Corps, as authorized by law,
16 \$1,000,000.

17 DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

18 NEOTROPICAL MIGRATORY BIRD CONSERVATION

19 For an additional amount of expenses necessary to
20 carry out the Neotropical Migratory Bird Conservation
21 Act (16 USC 6101 et seq.), \$1,000,000, to remain avail-
22 able until expended.

1 DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN
2 DEVELOPMENT
3 ASSISTED HOUSING INSPECTIONS AND RISK
4 ASSESSMENTS

5 For an additional amount of expenses necessary of
6 the Department of Housing and Urban Development's in-
7 spection and assessment programs, including travel, train-
8 ing, and program support contracts, \$1,000,000.

○