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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces to combat transnational organized crime and to reduce the availability of illicit narcotics in the United States by using a prosecutor-led, multi-agency approach to enforcement, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MORELLE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces to combat transnational organized crime and to reduce the availability of illicit narcotics in the United States by using a prosecutor-led, multi-agency approach to enforcement, 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 “Protect Law Enforce-
5 ment Task Forces Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Established in 1982, the Organized Crime
4 Drug Enforcement Task Forces (OCDETF) has
5 been the centerpiece of the Attorney General's strat-
6 egy to combat transnational organized crime and to
7 reduce the availability of illicit narcotics in the Na-
8 tion by using a prosecutor-led, multi-agency ap-
9 proach to enforcement through concentrated, coordi-
10 nated, long-term enterprise investigations of
11 transnational organized crime, money laundering,
12 and major drug trafficking networks.

13 (2) OCDETF is the largest anti-crime task
14 force in the country with its own Executive Office
15 and its accountability for over 500 Federal prosecu-
16 tors, 1,200 Federal agents, and some 5,000 State
17 and local police. The program has 9 regions and 19
18 strike forces around the country to coordinate inves-
19 tigations and prosecutions by bringing together Fed-
20 eral, State, and local law enforcement for multi-ju-
21 risdictional operations, while the OCDETF Fusion
22 Center (OFC) leads on intelligence sharing.

23 (3) OCDETF implements a nationwide strategy
24 combining priority targeting, coordination, intel-
25 ligence sharing, and directed resourcing to have the
26 greatest impact disrupting and dismantling com-

1 mand and control elements of criminal organiza-
2 tions.

3 (4) OCDETF has one of the best returns on in-
4 vestment in Federal law enforcement, as dem-
5 onstrated by the following:

6 (A) In fiscal year 2022, OCDETF brought
7 in \$524 million in cash and property seizures
8 and forfeitures.

9 (B) In fiscal year 2023, OCDETF brought
10 in \$423 million, almost offsetting its funding.

11 (5) Since OCDETF's inception, tens of thou-
12 sands of arrests have been made and hundreds of
13 tons of narcotics and billions in currency, real prop-
14 erty, and conveyances have all been seized proving
15 how, in its current structure, OCDETF is a legiti-
16 mate and effective initiative that has successfully
17 lowered crime in cities across the United States.

18 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 180
20 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney
21 General, acting through the Director of the Organized
22 Crime Drug Enforcement Task Forces, and in coordina-
23 tion with other agencies of the Department of Justice, in-
24 cluding the Drug Enforcement Administration, shall
25 structure the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task

1 Forces (in this section, referred to as “Task Forces”) to
2 combat transnational organized crime and to reduce the
3 availability of illicit narcotics in the United States by
4 using a prosecutor-led, multi-agency approach to enforce-
5 ment.

6 (b) COVERED AGENCY.—For the purpose of sub-
7 section (a), the following are covered agencies:

8 (1) Department of the Treasury.

9 (2) Department of Homeland Security.

10 (3) U.S. Postal Service.

11 (4) Department of Labor.

12 (5) Department of State.

13 (c) REPORT.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
15 the date of enactment of this Act, Attorney General,
16 acting through the Director of the Organized Crime
17 Drug Enforcement Task Forces, in conjunction with
18 the head of each covered agency, shall submit a joint
19 report on the successes of the Task Forces to—

20 (A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
21 Senate;

22 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
23 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

24 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
25 the Senate;

1 (D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
2 House of Representatives;

3 (E) the Committee on Homeland Security
4 of the House of Representatives; and

5 (F) the Committee on Appropriations of
6 the House of Representatives.

7 (2) CLASSIFICATION AND PUBLIC RELEASE.—

8 The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall
9 be—

10 (A) submitted in unclassified form, to the
11 greatest extent possible, with a classified annex
12 only if necessary; and

13 (B) in the case of the unclassified portion
14 of the report, posted on the public website of
15 the Department of Justice and each covered
16 agency included in the Task Forces.

17 (d) SUNSET.—This Act shall have no force or effect
18 after January 20, 2029.

19 (e) ORGANIZED CRIME DRUG ENFORCEMENT TASK
20 FORCES DESCRIBED.—In this Act, Organized Crime Drug
21 Enforcement Task Forces refers to the task forces estab-
22 lished by and under the direction of the Attorney General
23 and announced on October 14, 1982 in the Remarks An-
24 nouncing Federal Initiatives Against Drug Trafficking
25 and Organized Crime.