

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and 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”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Established in 1982, the Organized Crime
2 Drug Enforcement Task Forces has been the center-
3 piece of the strategy of the Attorney General to com-
4 bat transnational organized crime and to reduce the
5 availability of illicit narcotics in the United States by
6 using a prosecutor-led, multi-agency approach to en-
7 forcement through concentrated, coordinated, long-
8 term enterprise investigations of transnational orga-
9 nized crime, money laundering, and major drug traf-
10 ficking networks.

11 (2) OCDETF is the largest anti-crime task
12 force in the United States with its own executive of-
13 fice and is accountable for over 500 Federal pros-
14 ecutors, 1,200 Federal agents, and some 5,000 State
15 and local police. The program has 9 regions and 19
16 strike forces around the United States to coordinate
17 investigations and prosecutions by bringing together
18 Federal, State, and local law enforcement for multi-
19 jurisdictional operations, while the OCDETF Fusion
20 Center leads on intelligence sharing.

21 (3) OCDETF implements a nationwide strategy
22 combining priority targeting, coordination, intel-
23 ligence sharing, and directed resourcing to have the
24 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 \$524,000,000 in cash and property seizures
8 and forfeitures.

9 (B) In fiscal year 2023, OCDETF brought
10 in \$423,000,000, almost offsetting its funding.

11 (5) Since the inception of OCDETF, tens of
12 thousands of arrests have been made, and hundreds
13 of tons of narcotics and billions in currency, real
14 property, and conveyances have all been seized prov-
15 ing how, in its current structure, OCDETF is a le-
16 gitimate and effective initiative that has successfully
17 lowered crime in cities across the United States.

18 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

20 (1) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered
21 agency” means—

22 (A) the Department of the Treasury;

23 (B) the Department of Homeland Security;

24 (C) the United States Postal Service;

25 (D) the Department of Labor; and

1 (E) the Department of State.

2 (2) OCDETF.—The term “OCDETF” means
3 the Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task
4 Forces established by and under the direction of the
5 Attorney General and announced on October 14,
6 1982, in the Remarks Announcing Federal Initia-
7 tives Against Drug Trafficking and Organized
8 Crime.

9 (3) OFC.—The term “OFC” means the
10 OCDETF Fusion Center.

11 (4) TASK FORCES.—The term “Task Forces”
12 means the interagency task force established under
13 section 4.

14 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
16 date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, act-
17 ing through the Director of the OCDETF, and in coordi-
18 nation with other agencies of the Department of Justice,
19 including the Drug Enforcement Administration, and cov-
20 ered agencies shall structure the OCDETF to combat
21 transnational organized crime and to reduce the avail-
22 ability of illicit narcotics in the United States by using
23 a prosecutor-led, multi-agency approach to enforcement.

24 (b) REPORT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
2 the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-
3 eral, acting through the Director of the OCDETF,
4 in conjunction with the head of each covered agency,
5 shall submit a joint report on the successes of the
6 Task Forces to—

7 (A) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
8 Senate;

9 (B) the Committee on Homeland Security
10 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

11 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
12 the Senate;

13 (D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
14 House of Representatives;

15 (E) the Committee on Homeland Security
16 of the House of Representatives; and

17 (F) the Committee on Appropriations of
18 the House of Representatives.

19 (2) CLASSIFICATION AND PUBLIC RELEASE.—
20 The report submitted under paragraph (1) shall
21 be—

22 (A) submitted in unclassified form, to the
23 greatest extent possible, with a classified annex
24 only if necessary; and

1 (B) in the case of the unclassified portion
2 of the report, posted on the public website of
3 the Department of Justice and each covered
4 agency included in the Task Forces.

5 **SEC. 5. SUNSET.**

6 This Act shall have no force or effect after January
7 20, 2029.