

I voted Yes on H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act.

The bill is intended to control the sale of synthetic drugs that mimic the hallucinogenic or stimulant properties of drugs like marijuana, cocaine, crystal meth, LSD, and others.

Specifically, the bill identifies and bans synthetic marijuana substitutes; bans the chemicals used in the synthetic stimulants commonly used as substitutes for cocaine and methamphetamines; and doubles the amount of time the Drug Enforcement Agency can ban new and emerging drugs if it is demonstrated that the drug is harmful and lacks medicinal value.

The destructive effects of these substances are well documented. The substances addressed in this legislation often have names like "bath salts," "plant food," and "incense," but are designed to facilitate their legal sale. This bill would prevent dubiously-named narcotics from being sold in stores.

The Justice Department and the American College of Emergency Physicians support this bill. It was approved by a vote of 317 – 98.