

Combating Illicit Xylazine Act (S.545)

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What is xylazine?

Xylazine, also called “tranq,” is a non-opiate veterinary tranquilizer that has been increasingly used as a cheap cutting agent for fentanyl and other narcotics in the United States.

What does the *Combating Illicit Xylazine Act* do?

The *Combating Illicit Xylazine Act* is a **bipartisan, bicameral and cross-administration effort to save American lives**. Specifically, the bill would:

- Classify xylazine as a Schedule III drug under the *Controlled Substances Act*;
- Allow the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and state, local and federal law enforcement to track the manufacturing and illicit distribution of xylazine;
- Require the Attorney General to report on the prevalence of illicit xylazine’s use and its impact in the United States; and
- Ensure veterinarians, farmers and ranchers can continue to use xylazine for its intended purpose – to treat large animals.

Why is the *Combating Illicit Xylazine Act* needed?

The United States has seen a disturbing uptick in xylazine-laced street drugs, including in fentanyl and heroin. If ingested, xylazine can cause depressed breathing and heart rate, unconsciousness, necrosis and death. Xylazine is increasingly the cause of fatal overdoses, in part because it’s resistant to Narcan.

Xylazine is not currently listed under the *Controlled Substances Act* and is easily accessible online for a relatively low price. While the DEA has the authority to schedule xylazine, the *Controlled Substances Act* does not allow DEA to include exemptions for legitimate users. Further, xylazine’s classification as Schedule III is necessary so law enforcement can help combat the drug’s illicit distribution. **Congressional action is the only way to keep xylazine out of the hands of drug traffickers, while protecting its legitimate use in veterinary medicine.**

Who supports the *Combating Illicit Xylazine Act*?

The *Combating Illicit Xylazine Act* is supported by major law enforcement organizations that represent over 1 million officers, national and local organizations representing over 117,000 veterinary professionals, livestock producers and researchers and two national coalitions of hundreds of bereaved families. The Department of Justice, Department of Health and Human Services, Drug Enforcement Administration and Office of National Drug Policy have also voiced their support for the bill. Both the Trump administration and the Biden administration supported classifying xylazine as Schedule III.

