

Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my opposition to H.R. 1254, the Synthetic Drug Control Act of 2011.

While I support sensible restrictions on dangerous substances, I am concerned about the unintended consequences this bill could have on medical research. This bill has the potential to make these kinds of substances extremely difficult for researchers to obtain. In fact, many researchers have expressed concern that the list in this bill is too broad and would restrict their ability to conduct important experiments.

Additionally, this legislation would bypass the scientific and medical review process that is in place for adding substances to Schedule I. Making decisions without scientific review is problematic.

It is important to note that states are free to make decisions regarding these kinds of substances. I supported the reasonable step New Jersey took when it banned the synthetic drugs known as "bath salts" this summer.

Since this bill would bypass scientific review and could hinder much-needed research, I urge my colleagues to vote no.