



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

March 2, 2006

H.R. 2829

A bill to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
on February 16, 2006*

SUMMARY

H.R. 2829 would reauthorize operations of the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and programs administered by that office through 2010. Major programs administered by that office include the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program, the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign, and the Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 2829 would cost about \$2.6 billion over the 2007-2011 period. Of this total, about \$1.9 billion would result from amounts specifically authorized for the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign and High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas.

By reauthorizing ONDCP's authority to accept and spend gifts, enacting H.R. 2829 could affect direct spending and revenues, but CBO estimates that any such impact would be negligible.

H.R. 2829 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA); any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal entities would result from participating in a voluntary federal program.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 2829 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 750 (administration of justice) and 800 (general government).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law for ONDCP						
Budget Authority ^a	479	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	484	196	36	11	0	0
Proposed Changes:						
High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas						
Authorization Level	0	290	290	300	300	0
Estimated Outlays	0	73	247	278	299	225
National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign						
Authorization Level	0	195	210	210	210	0
Estimated Outlays	0	176	209	210	210	21
Other Federal Drug Control Programs						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	97	98	100	102	0
Estimated Outlays	0	81	94	98	100	14
Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	31	31	32	32	0
Estimated Outlays	0	29	31	32	32	2
Office of National Drug Control Policy						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	28	29	30	30	0
Estimated Outlays	0	24	28	30	30	5
Other Provisions						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	7	7	7	7	0
Estimated Outlays	0	6	7	7	7	0
Total Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	647	665	679	681	0
Estimated Outlays	0	387	614	654	676	267
Total Spending Under H.R. 2829 for ONDCP						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	479	647	665	679	681	0
Estimated Outlays	484	583	650	665	676	267

NOTES: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

a. The 2006 level is the amount appropriated for that year for programs administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the bill will be enacted during fiscal year 2006, that the necessary amounts will be provided each year, and that spending will follow historical patterns for the ONDCP and its programs.

Spending Subject to Appropriation

The bill would reauthorize all the programs of ONDCP through 2010. The current authorization for ONDCP expired at the end of fiscal year 2003 (although the office continued to receive funding in 2004, 2005, and 2006). Based on information from ONDCP and historical spending patterns of the agency, CBO estimates that these authorizations, if funded beginning in fiscal year 2007, would result in outlays of about \$387 million in 2007 and about \$2.6 billion over the 2007-2011 fiscal year.

High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas. Section 109 would authorize the appropriation of \$290 million for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and \$300 million a year for 2009 and 2010 for the High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program. This program coordinates drug-control efforts among local, state, and federal law enforcement agencies. Assuming appropriation of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$73 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$1.1 billion over the 2007-2011 period.

National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign. Section 112 would authorize the appropriation of \$195 million in fiscal year 2007 and \$210 million a year for the 2008-2010 period for the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign (NYADMC) program. NYADMC delivers anti-drug messages through mass communications to help prevent and reduce youth drug use. Assuming appropriations of the specified amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this provision would cost \$176 million in 2007 and about \$825 million over the 2007-2011 period.

Other Federal Drug Control Programs. H.R. 2829 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as necessary to operate other federal drug-control programs (excluding NYADMC) through fiscal year 2010. Those include the Drug-Free Communities program, National Drug Court Institute, and the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency. Based on the level of funding for 2006, information from ONDCP, and adjusting for anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that implementing the programs would cost about \$81 million in 2007 and \$387 million over the 2007-2011 period.

Counterdrug Technology Assessment Center. The legislation would authorize the appropriation of such sums as necessary to operate the Counterdrug Assessment Center. The center coordinates counterdrug research and development activities for the federal

government. Because the bill did not specify funding levels, CBO estimated the costs by adjusting 2006 funding for anticipated inflation. On that basis, we estimate that operation of the center would cost \$29 million in 2007 and \$126 million over the 2007-2011 period.

Office of National Drug Control Policy. H.R. 2829 would authorize the appropriation of such sums as necessary for ONDCP. The office establishes policies, priorities, and objectives for federal drug-control programs. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that these activities would cost \$24 million in 2007 and \$115 million over the 2007-2011 period. This estimate is based on historical spending patterns and assumes that the appropriation for 2006 would be adjusted for anticipated inflation.

Other Provisions. Section 106 would require ONDCP to produce a biannual plan to increase the coordination among federal agencies working to combat illegal drug use. Based on information from ONDCP, CBO estimates that completing such plans would cost \$3 million a year.

Section 113 would amend the responsibilities and authorities of the United States Interdiction Coordinator. Based within the ONDCP, the U.S. Interdiction Coordinator would be responsible for coordinating efforts to prevent drugs from entering the United States. Based on information from ONDCP and the Department of Homeland Security, CBO estimates that increased staffing levels and new reporting requirements necessary under the bill would cost \$2 million annually.

The legislation includes other provisions that would establish new reporting requirements and procedures for preparing budget requests for ONDCP. CBO estimates that those provisions would cost \$2 million annually.

Revenues and Direct Spending

H.R. 2829 would reauthorize ONDCP to accept donations of real and personal property. Gifts are classified in the budget as revenues, and spending of such sums would constitute direct spending. According to ONDCP, it has not received any gifts in recent years and does not expect to receive any under this authority. Hence, CBO estimates that additional revenues and direct spending under H.R. 2829 would be negligible.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 2829 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA; any costs incurred by state, local, or tribal entities would result from participating in a voluntary federal program.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATES

On August 5, 2005, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2829 as ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on June 16, 2005. On July 7, 2005, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 2565, a bill to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy Act and to establish minimum drug-testing standards for major professional sports leagues, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Government Reform on May 26, 2005.

H.R. 2829 and H.R. 2565 are similar; all three bills would reauthorize ONDCP and programs administered through that office. However, the three pieces of legislation would authorize varying amounts for various activities over different time periods. CBO's cost estimates for the three bills reflect those differences.

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