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The U.S. Senate recently passed a bill that proponents such as Senator Amy Klobuchar believe will promote healthy living and help save lives by preventing medication shortages and banning synthetic drugs.

“Patients who are dealing with serious illnesses should not have to worry about whether or not the medicine they depend on for treatment will be available tomorrow,” said Klobuchar. “They should be able to simply focus on getting better. And the Senate's passage of this legislation will make it easier for them to do so.”

Klobuchar said she has seen the shortages of the medication used to treat childhood cancer earlier this year.
Under the bill, manufacturers of these medications will notify the FDA if there is an event that could cause a low supply. When notified, the FDA can access the supply of other sources, so medical professionals do not have to worry about where to find these medications.

“At the same time as we’ve witnessed a dramatic increase in the shortage of drugs used to save lives, we’ve also seen an alarming rise in the use of synthetic drugs that are endangering lives, particularly young lives,” said Klobuchar. “But while the use of these synthetic drugs has escalated, our laws have not kept pace.”

Klobuchar proposed a bill that would ban 2C-E – the drug that killed a Minnesota youth, and vouched for two other bills that would ban other types of synthetic drugs. These bills were included in the bill that recently passed.
Last year, poison control centers across the country had records of over 13,000 calls reporting synthetic drug situations compared to the 3,200 in 2010.