

By Senator Ingoglia

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the United States Department of State urging the United States Secretary of State to designate drug cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations.

WHEREAS, the land and maritime borders of the United States present unique challenges and threats to the national security of the country, and

WHEREAS, drug cartels engage in illicit activities, including human smuggling, human trafficking, weapons trafficking, money laundering, drug smuggling, extortion, and kidnapping, which activities have breached the borders of the United States, and

WHEREAS, as an example of the heinous activities of the drug cartels, in March 2023, south of the Texas border, one drug cartel claimed responsibility for the armed abduction and killing of American citizens who were traveling in Mexico, and

WHEREAS, drug cartels have been responsible for the export and distribution to the United States of wholesale amounts of fentanyl, methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and other illicit substances, which has caused tens of thousands of drug-related overdoses and deaths in this country, and

WHEREAS, during federal fiscal year 2023, United States Customs and Border Protection seized 27,000 pounds of fentanyl and millions of fentanyl pills, enough to kill every American several times over, and this amount represents a mere 10 to 15 percent of the fentanyl actually sent across the border into the United States each year, and

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30 WHEREAS, drug cartels engage in the practice of human
31 smuggling, which poses a substantial threat to the United States
32 by creating conduits that allow contraband and persons seeking
33 to harm the United States to clandestinely enter this country,
34 and

35 WHEREAS, during federal fiscal year 2023, United States
36 Customs and Border Protection encountered 172 individuals on the
37 terrorist watchlist, nearly double the previous year and more
38 than the past 6 years combined, and

39 WHEREAS, Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
40 authorizes the United States Secretary of State, in consultation
41 with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, to
42 designate an organization as a Foreign Terrorist Organization
43 when certain criteria are met, and

44 WHEREAS, drug cartels meet the criteria to be designated as
45 Foreign Terrorist Organizations, given they are foreign in
46 nature, engage in or retain the capability and intent to engage
47 in terrorism, and threaten the security, foreign relations, and
48 the economic interests of the United States, NOW, THEREFORE,

49
50 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

51
52 That the Florida Legislature respectfully urges the United
53 States Secretary of State to designate drug cartels as Foreign
54 Terrorist Organizations so that appropriate means may be
55 initiated to mitigate and, eventually, eliminate their
56 operations.

57 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch
58 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,

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59 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the
60 United States House of Representatives, the United States
61 Secretary of State, and each member of the Florida delegation to
62 the United States Congress.