

House 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

HM 7065

2024

26 | and millions of fentanyl pills, enough to kill every American  
 27 | several times over, and this amount represents a mere 10 to 15  
 28 | percent of the fentanyl actually sent across the border into the  
 29 | United States each year, and

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 | economic interests of the United States, NOW, THEREFORE,

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

HM 7065

2024

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

58 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch  
59 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,  
60 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
61 United States House of Representatives, the United States  
62 Secretary of State, and each member of the Florida delegation to  
the United States Congress.