

By Senator Gruters

23-01784-20

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Senate Memorial

A memorial to the Congress of the United States,  
urging the federal government to designate certain  
drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.

WHEREAS, the border of the United States presents unique  
challenges and threats to the national security of the country,  
and

WHEREAS, transnational criminal organizations, commonly  
known as drug cartels, control the majority of the flow of  
opioids, heroin, methamphetamine, and cocaine into this country  
and this state and these groups maintain territorial influence  
over large regions used for the cultivation, production,  
importation, and transportation of these illicit drugs, and

WHEREAS, drug cartels are also responsible for the  
proliferation of human trafficking in the United States,  
particularly in this state, as an integrated part of their drug  
trafficking operations, and

WHEREAS, drug cartels currently conduct operations on  
United States soil in furtherance of drug trafficking and human  
trafficking, and

WHEREAS, abuse of opioids, including fentanyl, and human  
trafficking are identified as direct threats to the economy,  
well-being, and overall vitality of this state and its  
residents, as well as future generations, and

WHEREAS, section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
authorizes the United States Secretary of State, in consultation  
with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, to  
designate an organization as a foreign terrorist organization

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30 when certain criteria are met, and

31 WHEREAS, drug cartels meet the criteria to be designated  
32 foreign terrorist organizations, given that they are foreign in  
33 nature, engage in or retain the capability and intent to engage  
34 in terrorism, and threaten the security of United States  
35 nationals and the national defense, foreign relations, and the  
36 economic interests of the United States, NOW, THEREFORE,

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38 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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40 That the Florida Senate, respectfully urges the federal  
41 government to designate drug cartels as foreign terrorist  
42 organizations so that it may use appropriate means to mitigate  
43 and, eventually, eliminate their operations.

44 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of State dispatch  
45 copies of this memorial to the President of the United States,  
46 the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the  
47 United States House of Representatives, and each member of the  
48 Florida delegation to the United States Congress.