

1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the United States Department of State,
 3 urging the United States Secretary of State to
 4 designate drug cartels as Foreign Terrorist
 5 Organizations.

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

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, during federal fiscal year 2023, United States
 25 Customs and Border Protection seized 27,000 pounds of fentanyl

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

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

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ORIGINAL

2024

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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.

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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.