

## HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 234

Reps. BeGole, Hall, Tisdell, Aragona, Neyer, St. Germaine, Fox, Cavitt, Schuette, Prestin, Kunse, Alexander, Steele, Thompson, Roth, Meerman, Bezotte, Wozniak, Phil Green, Smit, Hoadley, Jaime Greene, Beson, Markkanen and DeBoyer offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to urge the United States Secretary of State to  
2 designate drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations.

3           Whereas, The land and maritime borders of the United States  
4 present unique challenges and threats to the national security of  
5 the country. Michigan is on the forefront of this challenge as it  
6 maintains hundreds of miles of our international border; and

7           Whereas, Drug cartels engage in numerous illicit activities,  
8 including human smuggling, human trafficking, weapons trafficking,  
9 money laundering, drug smuggling, extortion, and kidnapping. These  
10 activities have breached the borders of the United States and our

1 great state; and

2       Whereas, As an example of the heinous activities of drug  
3 cartels, in March 2023, south of the Texas border, one drug cartel  
4 claimed responsibility for the armed abduction and killing of  
5 American citizens who were traveling in Mexico; and

6       Whereas, Drug cartels have been responsible for the illegal  
7 importation and distribution of wholesale amounts of fentanyl,  
8 methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and other illicit substances in  
9 the United States. As the quantity of drugs smuggled into the  
10 United States has increased, so too has the number of drug-related  
11 overdoses and deaths in this country; and

12       Whereas, During federal fiscal year 2023, United States  
13 Customs and Border Protection seized 27,000 pounds of fentanyl and  
14 millions of fentanyl pills, enough to kill every American. However,  
15 some Drug Enforcement Administration officials estimate that this  
16 amount represents a mere 10 to 15 percent of the fentanyl actually  
17 sent across the border into the United States each year; and

18       Whereas, Illicit drugs from foreign drug cartels have also  
19 made their appearance in Michigan. In March 2023, four kilograms of  
20 fentanyl linked to a well-known foreign drug cartel were uncovered  
21 during a traffic stop near the Village of Paw Paw. Criminal  
22 convictions have been obtained in Michigan against individuals  
23 attempting to distribute illicit drugs that were transported to our  
24 great state from foreign countries. In 2023, a string of home  
25 invasions and robberies in Oakland County were linked to  
26 transnational criminal organizations with origins in South America.  
27 During federal fiscal year 2023, the Detroit Field Office of United  
28 States Customs and Border Protection seized 7,700 pounds of drugs;  
29 and

1           Whereas, Drug cartels engage in the practice of human  
2 smuggling, which poses a substantial threat to the United States by  
3 creating conduits that allow contraband and persons seeking to harm  
4 the United States to clandestinely enter this country; and

5           Whereas, During federal fiscal year 2023, United States Border  
6 Patrol encountered 172 individuals on the terrorist watchlist  
7 between ports of entry, which is nearly double the number  
8 encountered in the previous fiscal year and more than the past six  
9 fiscal years combined; and

10           Whereas, Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act  
11 authorizes the United States Secretary of State, in consultation  
12 with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, to  
13 designate an organization as a foreign terrorist organization when  
14 certain criteria are met; and

15           Whereas, Drug cartels meet the criteria to be designated as  
16 foreign terrorist organizations, given that they are foreign in  
17 nature, they engage in or retain the capability and intent to  
18 engage in terrorism, and they threaten the security, foreign  
19 relations, and economic interests of the United States; now,  
20 therefore, be it

21           Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the  
22 United States Secretary of State to designate drug cartels as  
23 foreign terrorist organizations; and be it further

24           Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
25 President of the United States, the President of the United States  
26 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
27 the United States Secretary of State, and the members of the  
28 Michigan congressional delegation.