

Calendar No. 748118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**S. 5315****[Report No. 118–328]**

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance border security by seeking to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in Mexico and Central American and South American countries to combat human smuggling and trafficking operations in Mexico and such countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 14, 2024

Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. KELLY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

DECEMBER 19 (legislative day, DECEMBER 16), 2024

Reported by Mr. PETERS, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]**A BILL**

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance border security by seeking to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in Mexico and Central American and South American countries to combat human smuggling and trafficking operations in Mexico and such countries, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Cooperation on Com-
5 bating Human Smuggling and Trafficking Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PARTNER-**
7 **SHIPS TO COMBAT HUMAN SMUGGLING AND**
8 **TRAFFICKING.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
10 rity, in coordination with appropriate Federal partners,
11 shall enhance border security by seeking to expand part-
12 nerships with appropriate law enforcement entities in
13 Mexico and Central American and South American coun-
14 tries to combat human smuggling and trafficking oper-
15 ations in Mexico and such countries, including by—

16 (1) establishing or expanding cross-border
17 transnational criminal investigative units to identify,
18 disrupt, and support the prosecution of human
19 smuggling and trafficking operations;

20 (2) enhancing participation in the Bilateral
21 Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiative or a suc-
22 cessor initiative; and

23 (3) providing advanced training for certain in-
24 vestigators and prosecutors from Mexico and other
25 Latin American countries.

1 (b) INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF HUMAN
2 SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING.—The Secretary of
3 Homeland Security shall seek to expand collaborative pro-
4 grams involving Homeland Security Investigations that
5 are aimed at supporting the investigation and prosecution
6 of human smugglers and traffickers targeting children and
7 families that pose border security threats and operate at
8 the southern land border of the United States, including
9 the continuation and expansion of anti-trafficking coordi-
10 nation teams.

11 (c) INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO DETER MIGRA-
12 TION.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland
14 Security shall carry out targeted public information
15 campaigns—

16 (A) to inform targeted migrant populations
17 within Mexico, Central America, South Amer-
18 ica, and certain other countries with high mi-
19 gration rates regarding the dangers of travel
20 across Mexico to the United States; and

21 (B) to combat misinformation and
22 disinformation by transnational criminal organi-
23 zations and other nefarious actors regarding
24 United States laws or policies.

1 (2) SPECIFICATIONS.—The information cam-
2 paigns implemented pursuant to paragraph (1) shall,
3 to the greatest extent possible—

4 (A) be targeted at populations and local-
5 ities with high migration rates;

6 (B) employ a variety of communications
7 media; and

8 (C) be developed in consultation with ap-
9 propriate program officials of the Department
10 of State and, as appropriate, Mexican, Central
11 American, South American, and other appro-
12 priate foreign governments, nonprofit or aca-
13 demic entities, and representatives acting on be-
14 half of targeted migrant populations, including
15 repatriated migrants.

16 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

17 *This Act may be cited as the “Cooperation on Com-
18 bating Human Smuggling and Trafficking Act”.*

19 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PARTNER-**
20 **SHIPS TO COMBAT HUMAN SMUGGLING AND**
21 **TRAFFICKING.**

22 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of Homeland Secu-*
23 *rity, in coordination with appropriate Federal partners,*
24 *shall combat human smuggling and trafficking by seeking*
25 *to expand partnerships with appropriate law enforcement*

1 *entities in Mexico and Central American and South Amer-*
2 *ican countries, including by—*

3 (1) *establishing or expanding cross-border*
4 *transnational criminal investigative units to identify,*
5 *disrupt, and support the prosecution of human smug-*
6 *gling and trafficking operations;*

7 (2) *enhancing participation in the Bilateral*
8 *Human Trafficking Enforcement Initiative or a suc-*
9 *cessor initiative; and*

10 (3) *providing advanced training for certain in-*
11 *vestigators and prosecutors from Mexico and such*
12 *countries, including training on civil rights, civil lib-*
13 *erties, and privacy protections.*

14 (b) *INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION OF HUMAN*
15 *SMUGGLING AND TRAFFICKING.—The Secretary of Home-*
16 *land Security shall evaluate and report to the Committee*
17 *on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the*
18 *Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security of the*
19 *House of Representatives regarding the potential for the ex-*
20 *pansion of collaborative programs involving Homeland Se-*
21 *curity Investigations that are aimed at supporting the in-*
22 *vestigation and prosecution of human smugglers and traf-*
23 *fickers that pose border security threats and operate at the*
24 *southern land border of the United States, including the*

1 *continuation and expansion of anti-trafficking coordina-*
2 *tion teams.*

3 (c) *INFORMATION CAMPAIGN TO DETER MIGRATION.*—

4 (1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Secretary of Homeland*
5 *Security shall carry out targeted public information*
6 *campaigns—*

7 (A) *to inform targeted migrant populations*
8 *within Mexico, Central America, South America,*
9 *and certain other countries with high migration*
10 *rates regarding the dangers of travel across Mex-*
11 *ico to the United States; and*

12 (B) *to combat misinformation and*
13 *disinformation by transnational criminal orga-*
14 *nizations and other nefarious actors regarding*
15 *United States laws or policies.*

16 (2) *SPECIFICATIONS.*—*The information cam-*
17 *paigns implemented pursuant to paragraph (1) shall,*
18 *to the greatest extent possible—*

19 (A) *be targeted at populations and localities*
20 *with high migration rates;*

21 (B) *employ a variety of communications*
22 *media; and*

23 (C) *be developed in consultation with ap-*
24 *propriate program officials of the Department of*
25 *State and, as appropriate, Mexican, Central*

1 *American, South American, and other appro-*
2 *priate foreign governments, nonprofit or aca-*
3 *demie entities, and representatives acting on be-*
4 *half of targeted migrant populations, including*
5 *repatriated migrants.*

6 *(d) REPORT ON EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATIONS.—Not*
7 *later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this*
8 *Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—*

9 *(1) conduct a study that—*

10 *(A) assesses the effectiveness of public infor-*
11 *mation campaigns that have been implemented*
12 *by the Department of Homeland Security to*
13 *carry out the objectives set forth in subsection*
14 *(c)(1); and*

15 *(B) identifies the best practices with respect*
16 *to such campaigns; and*

17 *(2) submit a report containing the findings of*
18 *such study to the Committee on Homeland Security*
19 *and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Com-*
20 *mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-*
21 *resentatives.*

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