

As Adopted by the Senate

**134th General Assembly
Regular Session
2021-2022**

S. R. No. 243

Senators Cirino, Gavarone

**Cosponsors: Senators Hoagland, Schaffer, Brenner, Lang, Antani, Romanchuk,
Roegner, Dolan, Hackett, Huffman, S., McColley, Peterson, Reineke**

A R E S O L U T I O N

To urge the United States government to secure its 1
borders. 2

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

WHEREAS, A strong, secure border benefits the United 3
States; and 4

WHEREAS, The well-being and safety of the citizens of the 5
United States is being jeopardized by threats from transnational 6
criminal organizations; and 7

WHEREAS, It is integral to the security, well-being, and 8
harmony of the people of the United States to sustain secure 9
borders; and 10

WHEREAS, The dedicated individuals of the United States 11
Customs and Border Protection work diligently and honorably to 12
secure borders in the most efficient and humane manner; and 13

WHEREAS, The Governor of Ohio has allocated our state's 14
resources to secure our borders through the assignment of over 15
one hundred members of the Ohio National Guard to support United 16
States Customs and Border Protection and the assignment of 17
troopers from the Ohio State Highway Patrol to travel to Texas 18

to support local law enforcement with border surveillance; and 19

WHEREAS, Ill-motivated individuals continuously seek to 20
cause harm, danger, injury, hazard, and peril to those who 21
protect the United States' borders; and 22

WHEREAS, Those individuals who cross the United States' 23
borders without regard for the legal immigration process 24
circumvent the individuals who show respect for the rule of law; 25
and 26

WHEREAS, Those same individuals defy the right of the 27
United States to control its own sovereign territory and 28
regulate the happenings within its rightful borders; and 29

WHEREAS, The smuggling of contraband, such as drugs and 30
weapons, have plagued the United States' borders; and 31

WHEREAS, In fiscal year 2021, United States Customs and 32
Border Protection seized more than 319,000 pounds of marijuana, 33
109,000 pounds of methamphetamine, 97,000 pounds of cocaine, 34
11,000 pounds of fentanyl, and 5,400 pounds of heroin; and 35

WHEREAS, These illegal drugs are sold, spread, and used 36
throughout the American citizenry as drug overdoses and abuse 37
rates reach the highest levels on record in the United States, 38
including Ohio hitting a record death rate from opioid overdose 39
during the second quarter of 2020; and 40

WHEREAS, In 2020, 81% of overdose deaths in Ohio involved 41
illicit fentanyl or fentanyl analogs, while drug deaths related 42
to fentanyl increased 32% from 2019; and 43

WHEREAS, Most fentanyl and fentanyl-related substances 44
abused in the United States are trafficked into the country via 45
international mail, express consignment, or across the 46
southwestern border; and 47

WHEREAS, The act of human smuggling, which deliberately 48

evades immigration laws, is a daily occurrence at the 49
southwestern border according to U.S. Immigration and Customs 50
Enforcement; and 51

WHEREAS, Individuals who are smuggled into the United 52
States may be involved in transnational criminal organization 53
operations or may be forced into human trafficking situations; 54
and 55

WHEREAS, Human trafficking is a serious issue in Ohio, as 56
state sources identified over 1,300 cases between 2014 and 2020, 57
ranking the state among the ten worst in the nation for human 58
trafficking; and 59

WHEREAS, The United States Department of State has urged 60
state and local governments, as well as nonprofit organizations, 61
to address cross-border trafficking issues and support strong 62
collaboration at the borders to identify and prevent human 63
trafficking; now therefore be it 64

RESOLVED, That we, the members of the Senate of the 134th 65
General Assembly of the State of Ohio, support the investment of 66
necessary resources by the United States government to ensure 67
secure, strong, and sustainable borders; and be it further 68

RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Senate transmit duly 69
authenticated copies of this resolution to the President Pro 70
Tempore and Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker 71
and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, the 72
President and Vice President of the United States, the members 73
of the Ohio Congressional delegation, and the news media of 74
Ohio. 75