

HM 703

2020

1 House Memorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

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26 WHEREAS, section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act
27 authorizes the United States Secretary of State, in consultation
28 with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Attorney General, to
29 designate an organization as a foreign terrorist organization
30 when certain criteria are met, and

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

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

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41 That the House of Representatives, respectfully urges the
42 federal government to designate the drug cartels as foreign
43 terrorist organizations so that the government may use
44 appropriate means to mitigate and eventually eliminate their
45 operations.

46 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
47 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the
48 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the
49 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of
50 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.