

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3508

To require a comprehensive southern border strategy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2023

Mrs. KIM of California (for herself, Mr. GUEST, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. PEREZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security

A BILL

To require a comprehensive southern border strategy, 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 “Comprehensive South-
5 ern Border Strategy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPREHENSIVE SOUTHERN BORDER STRATEGY.**

7 (a) COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.—

8 (1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 12 months
9 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
10 retary of Homeland Security shall submit to the

1 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of
2 Representatives and the Committee on Homeland
3 Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a
4 comprehensive southern border strategy.

5 (2) CONTENTS.—The strategy submitted under
6 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

7 (A) A comprehensive overview of the cur-
8 rent security risks present along the southern
9 border, including relating to deficiencies along
10 the physical border, aerial and maritime
11 vulnerabilities, and the presence of illegal tun-
12 neling.

13 (B) A substantive review of the Depart-
14 ment of Homeland Security’s technology, tools,
15 or other devices used to combat the trafficking
16 of drugs across the southern border, with an
17 emphasis on fentanyl and related substances.

18 (C) A thorough outline of the Depart-
19 ment’s technology, tools, or other devices used
20 to combat human trafficking across the south-
21 ern border by international criminal organiza-
22 tions.

23 (D) A list of known physical barriers, tech-
24 nologies, tools, and other devices that can be
25 used to achieve and maintain situational aware-

1 ness and operational control along the southern
2 border.

3 (E) A projected per mile cost estimate for
4 each physical barrier, technology, tool, and
5 other device included on the list required under
6 subparagraph (B).

7 (F) A detailed account of which type of
8 physical barrier, technology, tool, or other de-
9 vice the Department of Homeland Security be-
10 lieves is necessary to achieve and maintain situ-
11 ational awareness and operational control for
12 each linear mile of the southern border.

13 (G) An explanation for why such physical
14 barrier, technology, tool, or other device was
15 chosen to achieve and maintain situational
16 awareness and operational control for each lin-
17 ear mile of the southern border, including the
18 following:

19 (i) The methodology used to deter-
20 mine which type of physical barrier, tech-
21 nology, tool, or other device was chosen for
22 such linear mile.

23 (ii) An examination of existing man-
24 made and natural barriers for each linear
25 mile of the southern border.

1 (iii) The information collected and
2 evaluated from the following:

3 (I) The appropriate U.S. Cus-
4 toms and Border Protection Sector
5 Chief.

6 (II) The appropriate State Gov-
7 ernor.

8 (III) Local law enforcement offi-
9 cials.

10 (IV) Private property owners.

11 (V) Other affected stakeholders.

12 (H) A per mile cost calculation for each
13 linear mile of the southern border given the
14 type of physical barrier, technology, tool, or
15 other device chosen to achieve and maintain
16 operational control for each linear mile.

17 (I) A cost justification for each time a
18 more expensive physical barrier, technology,
19 tool, or other device is chosen over a less expen-
20 sive option, as established by the per mile cost
21 estimates required in subparagraph (B).

22 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 (1) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term “oper-
24 ational control” has the meaning given such term in

1 section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (8
2 U.S.C. 1701 note; Public Law 109–367).

3 (2) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term “sit-
4 uational awareness” has the meaning given the term
5 in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Au-
6 thorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law
7 114–328).

○