

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2789

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy on efforts to strengthen subnational cooperation between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2023

Mr. STANTON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy on efforts to strengthen subnational cooperation between the United States and Mexico, 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 “American Cooperation
5 with Our Neighbors Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUBNATIONAL COOPERATION STRATEGY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State,
9 in coordination with the Administrator of the United

1 States Agency for International Development, shall submit
2 to the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
3 resentatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of
4 the Senate a strategy on efforts to strengthen subnational
5 cooperation between the United States and Mexico for the
6 purposes of—

7 (1) enhancing law enforcement cooperation at a
8 subnational level for the purpose of curbing fentanyl
9 trafficking and other synthetic opioids, including ac-
10 tivities such as—

11 (A) bolstering technical assistance for law
12 enforcement agencies;

13 (B) carrying out exchange programs for
14 the purposes of professional development; and

15 (C) enhancing data sharing, as appro-
16 priate;

17 (2) bolstering subnational dialogue between
18 local governments, civil society, faith-based organiza-
19 tions, and business community leaders and inte-
20 grating issues faced by local communities, including
21 with respect to trafficking of fentanyl and other syn-
22 thetic opioids; and

23 (3) strengthening capacity building and provide
24 resources for border towns and organizations within

1 those towns that attempt to meet the needs of local
2 communities.

3 (b) UPDATE.—Not later than 2 years after the date
4 of the submission of the strategy under subsection (a), the
5 President shall submit to the congressional committees
6 specified in subsection (a) an update containing an assess-
7 ment of the implementation and effectiveness of the strat-
8 egy, lessons learned from the past year with respect to
9 the strategy, and planned changes to the strategy.

10 (c) FORM.—The strategy under subsection (a), and
11 the update under subsection (b), shall be submitted in un-
12 classified form.

13 **SEC. 3. LOW-EARTH ORBIT SATELLITE TECHNOLOGIES FEA-**
14 **SIBILITY STUDY AND REPORT.**

15 (a) FEASIBILITY STUDY.—The Secretary of State, in
16 consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Admin-
17 istrator of the United States Agency for International De-
18 velopment, the Director of the United States Trade and
19 Development Agency, and the heads of other Federal
20 agencies as appropriate, shall conduct a feasibility study
21 for the countries of Mexico, Central America, and the Car-
22 ibbean on the possibility of low-Earth orbit satellites, high
23 altitude platforms systems, or other trusted space-based
24 telecommunications technologies to—

1 (1) provide broadband connection to remote
2 areas that lack access to network service;

3 (2) provide mobile and internet services without
4 the use of untrusted telecommunications equipment
5 or services; and

6 (3) provide uncensored internet access to the
7 people of such countries the governments of which
8 use firewalls to prevent their populations from freely
9 accessing information.

10 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the com-
11 pletion of the feasibility study under subsection (a), the
12 Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee on
13 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and Com-
14 mittee on Foreign Relations of the Senate a report on the
15 results of the feasibility study under subsection (a) that
16 includes an analysis of the—

17 (1) scalability of the implementation of the
18 technologies described in subsection (a);

19 (2) economic viability of using space-based tech-
20 nologies to reach remote areas, including the cost of
21 space-enabled broadband service per newly connected
22 person;

23 (3) feasibility of using such technologies to limit
24 or phase out the use of untrusted telecommuni-
25 cations equipment or services; and

1 (4) capability of satellite internet technologies
2 to provide uncensored internet to people in countries
3 where open internet access is forbidden or curtailed.

4 **SEC. 4. DEPARTMENT OF STATE REVIEW OF ACCESS TO FI-**
5 **NANCE IN THE COUNTRIES OF THE CARIB-**
6 **BEAN.**

7 (a) REVIEW.—The Secretary of State, in consultation
8 with the Secretary of Treasury, shall conduct a review to
9 determine any steps, balancing costs and benefits, that the
10 Secretaries could take to expand financial access to the
11 countries of the Caribbean, including through a review
12 of—

13 (1) sanctions enforcement laws and compliance
14 standards;

15 (2) reporting requirements pertaining to nar-
16 cotics trafficking and illicit finance thereof;

17 (3) possible expansion of embassies and con-
18 sulates in the region; and

19 (4) programming or lack thereof pertaining to
20 access to capital in the region.

21 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the ap-
22 propriate congressional committees a report on the find-
23 ings of the Secretary pertaining to the review under sub-
24 section (a).

1 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
2 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
3 sional committees” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the
5 Committee on Financial Services of the House of
6 Representatives; and

7 (2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and
8 the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Af-
9 fairs of the Senate.

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