



H.R. 8644 - Bipartisan Advanced Border Coordination Act

Introduced by Rep. Susie Lee (D-NV), Rep. David Joyce (R-OH), Rep. Chris Pappas (D-NH), Rep. Mayra Flores (R-TX)

The need:

- For years, our communities have struggled with transnational criminal operations at America's southern border, including drug, weapon, and human trafficking.
 - Local law enforcement agencies and U.S. Customs and Border Protection have been overwhelmed by increasing amounts of dangerous border crossings and transnational criminal activity, resulting in major humanitarian and national security issues.
 - Our communities have suffered the loss of friends and family members to drug overdoses, including 100,000 last year—a tragedy fueled by the unacceptable amounts of fentanyl and other narcotics entering by the southern border.
 - Americans have also witnessed the enormous humanitarian toll at the border, visible in the recent tragedy of 53 migrants killed after traffickers left them stranded in a truck near the Texas-Mexico border.
- Recent administrations' efforts to secure the southern border, combat international criminal activities, and safely enforce our nation's immigration laws have so far failed to produce an acceptable, sustainable outcome.
- Congress cannot afford to sit back as our southern border sees illicit narcotics flowing into our communities, migrants put in perilous situations, and criminal operations trafficking people, weapons, and more in and out of our country.

What this bipartisan bill does:

- It's past time to secure America's southern border and to combat transnational criminal activities that cause so much despair and loss of life.
- That's why we introduced the *Advanced Border Coordination Act*, which will ensure that the federal government is working in tandem with state and local law enforcement to develop a comprehensive strategy to secure our border, to build a more humane immigration system, and to protect our communities.
- The legislation, building off the success of state-based fusion centers, aims to strengthen border security by establishing two Joint Operation Centers (JOCs) along the southern border.
 - The Department of Homeland Security has periodically established these hubs to help law enforcement agencies work together to address border security and transnational criminal activity like drug and human trafficking.
 - The centers would bring together federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies to streamline their efforts and promote joint operations.
- Specifically, the bill would:
 - **Direct** DHS to establish at least two joint operations centers along the southern border. These centers would help law enforcement from multiple Federal, State, local, and Tribal agencies work together.
 - **Establish** that these centralized hubs serve as resources to improve field operations, help detect and deter criminal activity, like drug and human trafficking, and support workforce development and training coordination between participating agencies.

- **Require** an annual report to Congress on the centers' operational activities and recommendations for coordinated federal actions at the southern border.
- The Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Justice would be required to participate in the programs, and state and local law enforcement agencies would have the ability to opt in.
 - This common-sense effort would ensure that impacted states and communities have access to the federal resources they need and deserve, while complementing agencies current work to combat illegal, dangerous operations at the border.

Endorsing Organizations:

- National Immigration Forum
- Texas Border Coalition
- Major Cities Chiefs Association

To review this legislation, see the [Congress.gov](#) page for [H.R. 8644](#).

For more information or to cosponsor or endorse this bill, please contact:

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