

Amendment to the Chairman's Mark

Offered by Representatives Carbajal, Yarmuth, Lee, Lujan Grisham, Higgins, Khanna, Jayapal, Jackson Lee, and Schakowsky

Reject Construction of a Border Wall

1. At the end of Title V, add the following:

“POLICY STATEMENT ON REJECTING CONSTRUCTION OF A BORDER WALL

(a) FINDINGS. — The House finds the following:

- (1) A border wall alone will not prevent unauthorized persons from entering the United States.
- (2) Department of Justice statistics indicate that approximately 90 percent of the illicit drugs smuggled into the U.S. come through established ports of entry, rather than between those ports.
- (3) The Department of Homeland Security has performed no cost-benefit analysis for construction of a border wall or an analysis comparing the effectiveness of each dollar spent on a border wall with a dollar spent on law enforcement, border patrol agents, or other surveillance technology on reducing unauthorized entry into the United States.
- (4) According to the Government Accountability Office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has not developed metrics to systematically measure whether border barriers have any impact on diverting undocumented immigrants or on apprehension rates.
- (5) The Administration has failed to provide Congress or the American people a reliable and complete estimate of the cost of erecting and maintaining a physical wall on the southern U.S. and Mexico border.
- (6) An extrapolation of estimates provided by CBP suggests construction of a southern border wall could cost American taxpayers up to \$70 billion, excluding the cost of acquiring the land on which the wall would be built and excluding maintenance.

(b) POLICY ON REJECTING CONSTRUCTION OF A BORDER WALL. — It is the policy of this resolution that Congress provide no funding for construction of a border wall, which would be costly and ineffective.”

2. Amend the committee report to reflect the following policy assumptions:

The resolution rejects construction of an American taxpayer-funded wall on the U.S. southern border, which is a costly and ineffective method for dealing with the country’s broken immigration system.