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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

Reaffirming the United States commitment to respecting the sovereignty of Mexico and condemning calls for military action in Mexico without Mexico’s consent and congressional authorization.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CASTRO of Texas submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Reaffirming the United States commitment to respecting the sovereignty of Mexico and condemning calls for military action in Mexico without Mexico’s consent and congressional authorization.

Whereas Article 2(4) of the Charter of the United Nations, to which the United States is a party, states, “All Members shall refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, or in any other manner”;

Whereas the Charter of the Organization of American States, to which the United States is a party, Article 3(h) of

Chapter III states, “An act of aggression against one American State is an act of aggression against all the other American States”, and Article 3(i) states, “Controversies of an international character arising between two or more American States shall be settled by peaceful procedures”;

Whereas Article 22 of the Charter of the Organization of American States declares, “The American States bind themselves in their international relations not to have recourse to the use of force, except in the case of self defense in accordance with existing treaties or in fulfillment thereof”;

Whereas the United States and Mexico have cooperated for several decades on a variety of issues such as trade, investment, counter-narcotics, migration, rule of law, and security, including through recent high-level security and economic dialogues;

Whereas unilateral military action in Mexico could result in further violence and displacement in the country, contributing to forced migration within the Western Hemisphere including the United States;

Whereas Mexico is the largest trading partner of the United States, and unilateral military action in Mexico could trigger severe bilateral consequences that drive up expenses for workers and consumers in the United States;

Whereas unilateral military action in Mexico by the United States risks trapping the United States military in an intractable conflict, endangering the lives of United States service members and civilians in both Mexico and the United States; and

Whereas it is in the interest of the United States to work with the Mexican government to address the challenges posed by transnational criminal organizations: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2 (1) respects the sovereignty of Mexico, as pro-
3 tected by the principles of the Charter of the United
4 Nations and the Charter of the Organization of
5 American States;

6 (2) rejects and condemns the use of military
7 force by the United States against entities based in
8 Mexico if conducted without the consent of the Mexi-
9 can Government and without an explicit authoriza-
10 tion for the use of military force enacted by Con-
11 gress;

12 (3) recognizes that any act of aggression on
13 Mexico's sovereign territory without their consent
14 could be considered an act of war and a violation of
15 international law;

16 (4) emphasizes that any actions by the Presi-
17 dent to engage in hostilities in Mexico without con-
18 gressional authorization and for purposes other than
19 repelling a sudden attack would impinge on the con-
20 stitutional separation of powers and implicate the
21 War Powers Resolution (50 U.S.C. 1541 et seq.);

1 (5) underscores that any designation of an enti-
2 ty, including transnational criminal organizations, as
3 a foreign terrorist organization under United States
4 law on its own does not provide the President the
5 authority to conduct military actions against that
6 entity;

7 (6) reaffirms the President's inherent power to
8 repel sudden attacks on United States persons and
9 territory while noting that the manufacture, trans-
10 portation, and sale of fentanyl and related chemical
11 compounds is not an invasion, predatory incursion,
12 or other armed attack by a foreign adversary and
13 should not serve as the basis for using military force
14 without congressional authorization; and

15 (7) calls on continued United States engage-
16 ment with Mexico and strong bilateral relations to
17 support productive and effective means of combating
18 rising crime, violence, and drug trafficking.