

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4273

To install and maintain warning signage informing travelers of dangerous areas or routes near the southern border of the United States that have been identified in relevant Department of State Travel Advisories.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 26, 2026

Mr. KELLY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To install and maintain warning signage informing travelers of dangerous areas or routes near the southern border of the United States that have been identified in relevant Department of State Travel Advisories.

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 “Nicholas Douglas
5 Quets Border Travel Safety Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) On October 18, 2024, while traveling in the
2 Mexican state of Sonora near Puerto Peñasco, Nich-
3 olas Quets was targeted by armed criminals associ-
4 ated with the Sinaloa Cartel and the 31-year-old
5 American was tragically shot and killed in a violent
6 attack.

7 (2) The brutal murder of Nicholas Quets re-
8 flects the ongoing threat posed by transnational
9 criminal organizations and cartel violence in the re-
10 gion.

11 (3) Nicholas Quets was shot while traveling
12 along the Altar-Caborca highway (Federal Highway
13 2) in Sonora, which is frequently listed under a “Re-
14 consider Travel” advisory.

15 (4) It is not known if Nicholas Quets was aware
16 of any travel advisories on his chosen route.

17 (5) The Department of State issues Travel
18 Advisories to inform United States citizens and
19 other travelers of safety and security risks in foreign
20 countries and regions.

21 (6) Department of State Travel Advisories iden-
22 tify certain foreign regions, including areas near
23 United States land borders, that present elevated
24 safety or security risks due to criminal activity, vio-
25 lence, kidnapping, or other threats.

1 (7) Individuals entering or departing the United
2 States through land ports of entry may not be aware
3 that nearby areas identified in Department of State
4 Travel Advisories pose heightened safety or security
5 risks.

6 (8) Clear and visible signage at land ports of
7 entry and surrounding areas would improve traveler
8 awareness of such risks and promote public safety.

9 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

10 It is the sense of Congress that clear and visible sign-
11 age displaying travel advisories at land ports of entry
12 along the land boundary between the United States and
13 Mexico are necessary to improve traveler awareness of
14 safety or security risks due to criminal activity, violence,
15 kidnapping, or other threats.

16 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

17 In this Act:

18 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
19 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
20 mittees” means—

21 (A) the Committee on Homeland Security
22 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

23 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
24 the Senate;

1 (C) the Committee on Homeland Security
 2 of the House of Representatives; and

3 (D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
 4 the House of Representatives.

5 (2) LAND PORT OF ENTRY.—The term “land
 6 port of entry” means a port of entry along an inter-
 7 national land border between the United States and
 8 Mexico.

9 (3) TRAVEL ADVISORY.—The term “Travel Ad-
 10 visory” means the country-specific or region-specific
 11 safety advisory issued by the Department of State to
 12 inform travelers of security risks abroad.

13 **SEC. 5. WARNING SIGNAGE FOR TRAVELERS NEAR LAND**
 14 **PORTS OF ENTRY ALONG THE SOUTHERN**
 15 **BORDER.**

16 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland
 17 Security, acting through the Commissioner of U.S. Cus-
 18 toms and Border Protection, in consultation with the Sec-
 19 retary of State, shall establish and carry out a program
 20 to install and maintain warning signage informing trav-
 21 elers of dangerous areas or routes near the southern bor-
 22 der of the United States that have been identified in rel-
 23 evant Department of State Travel Advisories.

24 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE.—
 25 The Secretary of State shall—

1 (1) identify areas or routes near the United
2 States land border with Mexico that are designated
3 as dangerous in any Department of State Travel Ad-
4 visory;

5 (2) provide the Commissioner of U.S. Customs
6 and Border Protection with updated advisory infor-
7 mation necessary for the content of warning signage;
8 and

9 (3) provide the Secretary of Homeland Security
10 with the appropriate content and messaging of such
11 signage.

12 (c) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this Act, the
13 Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Com-
14 missioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall
15 coordinate with the Secretary of State, appropriate State
16 transportation and public safety agencies, and relevant
17 State, local, and tribal government officials.

18 **SEC. 6. PLACEMENT OF SIGNAGE.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
20 rity, acting through the Commissioner of U.S. Customs
21 and Border Protection, shall install, maintain, and update
22 warning signage described in this Act.

23 (b) LOCATIONS.—Warning signage developed pursu-
24 ant to this Act shall—

25 (1) be placed—

1 (A) at appropriate United States land
2 ports of entry along the border with Mexico;

3 (B) on all roadways and routes approach-
4 ing, and in areas immediately adjacent to, such
5 ports of entry where travelers are likely to cross
6 the international boundary;

7 (C) at any additional locations determined
8 appropriate by the Secretary of Homeland Se-
9 curity, in consultation with State and local
10 transportation authorities, to ensure adequate
11 traveler awareness;

12 (D) in locations that are clearly visible to
13 motorists and pedestrians; and

14 (E) in sufficient proximity to allow trav-
15 elers to make informed travel decisions; and

16 (2) include the words “pursuant to the Nicholas
17 Douglas Quets Border Travel Safety Act”.

18 (c) COORDINATION WITH STATE AND LOCAL AU-
19 THORITIES.—In placing signage pursuant to this section,
20 the Secretary of Homeland Security shall coordinate
21 with—

22 (1) State departments of transportation;

23 (2) local government officials; and

1 (3) other appropriate authorities responsible for
2 roadway infrastructure near the international border
3 of the United States.

4 (d) CONTENT OF SIGNAGE.—Signage required under
5 this Act shall—

6 (1) clearly warn travelers of nearby areas or
7 routes identified as dangerous in Department of
8 State Travel Advisories;

9 (2) provide a reference to additional safety in-
10 formation, including the Department of State travel
11 advisory website or a QR code linking to such infor-
12 mation;

13 (3) be displayed in a format that—

14 (A) can be swiftly and easily updated to
15 provide timely information to travelers based on
16 the Department of State’s Travel Advisory risk
17 indicators, including crime, terrorism, unrest,
18 health, natural disaster, time-limited event, kid-
19 napping or hostage-taking, wrongful detention,
20 and others; and

21 (B) may include details regarding recent
22 incidents that illustrate the threat level for
23 travelers from the United States;

24 (4) be displayed in English and Spanish, and
25 any additional languages the Secretary, in consulta-

1 tion with the Department of State, determines ap-
2 propriate; and

3 (5) include any other safety information the
4 Secretary of State determines appropriate.

5 **SEC. 7. REVIEWS AND UPDATES.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
7 rity, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall—

8 (1) annually review warning signage to ensure
9 accuracy and visibility; and

10 (2) update such signage as necessary to reflect
11 changes in Department of State Travel Advisories.

12 (b) IDENTIFICATION OF CRITICAL CHANGES.—The
13 Secretary of State shall notify the Secretary of Homeland
14 Security whenever critical changes have occurred that re-
15 quire warning signage to be updated.

16 **SEC. 8. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

17 (a) IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.—Not later than 1
18 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
19 retary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Sec-
20 retary of State and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs
21 and Border Protection, shall submit a report to the appro-
22 priate congressional committees that describes—

23 (1) the implementation of the signage program
24 required under this Act;

1 (2) the locations where signage has been in-
2 stalled;

3 (3) plans for updating such signage; and

4 (4) any recommendations for improving traveler
5 awareness of dangerous areas identified in Travel
6 Advisories.

7 (b) GAO REPORT.—The Comptroller General of the
8 United States shall submit a report to the appropriate
9 congressional committees that—

10 (1) describes the efficacy of the travel advisory
11 warnings for travelers; and

12 (2) indicates whether there are modernizations
13 to warning delivery that the Department of State or
14 the Department of Homeland Security could under-
15 take to ensure travelers have adequate awareness to
16 potential travel-related dangers.

17 **SEC. 9. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING USE OF**
18 **FORCE IN MEXICO.**

19 Nothing in this Act may be construed as authorizing
20 the use of force against Mexico or any entity or individual
21 within Mexico.

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