



Summary of H.R. 1417, the Border Security Results Act of 2013

The *Border Security Results Act* (H.R. 1417) [passed](#) the House Homeland Security Committee unanimously on May 15, 2013 after two markups and the consideration of over 30 amendments. Unlike the Senate bill, this legislation *requires* no less than a 90% apprehension rate on the entire Southwest Border in 5 years, proven by real metrics – verified by an independent third party. It fixes the current ad hoc approach of continually plugging holes on the border only to see the problem shift, as it has from Arizona to Texas, instead of solved, and finally addresses border security from the top down. The bill requires a national strategy to gain and maintain operational control of the nation’s borders first, and once the strategy is approved, resources will be granted in a fiscally responsible way.

Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Coast Guard already have a \$22 billion annual budget. While we know that the national strategy required by this bill will result in Congress appropriating new funds, no new taxpayer dollars will be granted until we know how they will be used. Throwing money at the problem cannot continue.

Specifically, the *Border Security Results Act* provides DHS with a roadmap to finally gain control of the border, demands an implementation plan and the creation of valid, verifiable ways to measure progress.

- ✓ **A National Plan:** H.R. 1417 requires DHS to develop a national strategy and implementation plan to gain operational control of the entire Southwest border—defined as apprehending 90% of illegal border crossers—using technology, manpower and physical barriers. DHS must gain operational control of high traffic areas within 2 years, and the entire Southwest border in 5 years.
- ✓ **Situational Awareness:** H.R. 1417 directs the use of advanced technology to achieve visibility of the entire border by incorporating existing taxpayer-owned Department of Defense technology being brought back from Iraq and Afghanistan.
- ✓ **Metrics & Results:** H.R. 1417 mandates the development of metrics to measure border security progress at and between the nation’s ports of entry, as well as in the maritime environment, to effectively allocate resources and manpower. **The metrics will be developed in consultation with stakeholders including governors from border states and a National Lab, which will provide an additional layer of expertise.*
- ✓ **Independent Verification of Operational Control:** In addition to requiring the Department to report to Congress every step of the way, H.R. 1417 requires GAO, the independent investigative arm of Congress, to verify the strategy, implementation plan, metrics and the mandated results.

For too long the emphasis when discussing border security has been on the number of resources thrown at the problem, but this is only part of the equation. While resources are important, how they are used is infinitely more important. It is time to focus on actual progress. H.R. 1417 will provide real, measurable results. For more information, please visit <http://homeland.house.gov/border-security-results-act>.

Endorsed by both law enforcement and industry including the Southwest Border Sheriffs, the Major County Sheriffs, the National Sheriffs Association and the Security Industry Association