

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To limit the authority of U.S. Border Patrol personnel to their traditional border security duties, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

_____ introduced the following bill; which was read twice
and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To limit the authority of U.S. Border Patrol personnel to their traditional border security duties, and for other purposes.

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 “Keeping Our Agents
5 on the Line Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Senate finds the following:

8 (1) For many years, representatives of the U.S.
9 Border Patrol have requested to return to their tra-
10 ditional border security duties on the line to avoid

1 certain administrative tasks, such as processing asy-
2 lum seekers and children.

3 (2) During 2025, U.S. Border Patrol—

4 (A) has apparently been delegated nation-
5 wide interior arrest authority;

6 (B) as a result of nationwide interior ar-
7 rest authority, has duplicated the functions and
8 purpose of U.S. Immigration and Customs En-
9 forcement, while failing to receive the commen-
10 surate training;

11 (C) has made numerous arrests in the inte-
12 rior of the United States, many without a judi-
13 cially authorized warrant, including arrests of
14 United States citizens; and

15 (D) is no longer limiting its patrols within
16 a reasonable distance from the line at the
17 United States land border.

18 (3) Many violent encounters recorded by United
19 States citizens and residents have involved U.S. Bor-
20 der Patrol agents who—

21 (A) are primarily trained to patrol the line
22 at the United States border; and

23 (B) are not sufficiently trained to manage
24 complex criminal investigations typically han-
25 dled by other Federal law enforcement agencies.

1 (4) Despite this lack of training, U.S. Border
2 Patrol agents have been roaming the interior of the
3 United States and arresting United States residents,
4 including United States citizens.

5 **SEC. 3. REAFFIRMING THE 25-MILE LIMITATION FOR U.S.**
6 **BORDER PATROL OFFICERS AND EMPLOY-**
7 **EES.**

8 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) IMMIGRATION OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES
10 OF U.S. BORDER PATROL.—The term “immigration
11 officers and employees of U.S. Border Patrol”
12 means any employee, contractor, or detailee who per-
13 forms services for U.S. Border Patrol.

14 (2) REASONABLE DISTANCE.—The term “rea-
15 sonable distance” means a distance not greater than
16 25 miles from any United States international land
17 border or territorial sea.

18 (b) SPECIAL RULES FOR U.S. BORDER PATROL.—
19 No authority, power, or permission granted under section
20 287 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
21 1357), may be exercised by immigration officers and em-
22 ployees of U.S. Border Patrol beyond a reasonable dis-
23 tance.

24 (c) PROHIBITION ON DELEGATION.—Notwith-
25 standing any other provision of law, immigration officers

1 and employees of U.S. Border Patrol may not be dele-
2 gated, deputized, or granted any authority to operate be-
3 yond a reasonable distance unless such authority is grant-
4 ed based upon—

5 (1) a lawful request made by an appropriate
6 State or local official to an immigration officer or
7 employee of U.S. Border Patrol, in accordance with
8 State or local law, to assist in an emergency situa-
9 tion in which lives are in immediate or imminent
10 danger; or

11 (2) the President’s declaration of a major dis-
12 aster under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford
13 Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
14 U.S.C. 5170).

15 **SEC. 4. CHECKPOINT AND ARREST DATA COLLECTION AND**
16 **REPORTING.**

17 (a) CHECKPOINT DATA.—Not later than 90 days
18 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commis-
19 sioner for U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall—

20 (1) establish milestones for determining the fea-
21 sibility of a checkpoint performance model that al-
22 lows U.S. Border Patrol to compare apprehensions
23 and seizures to the level of illegal activity passing
24 undetected through the checkpoint;

1 (2) post the findings and supporting data col-
2 lected pursuant to paragraph (1) on a publicly acces-
3 sible website not less frequently than annually;

4 (3) establish internal controls for managing the
5 oversight of the accuracy, consistency, and complete-
6 ness of checkpoint performance data; and

7 (4) publicly report on the total number of those
8 subjected to an encounter at a U.S. Border Patrol
9 checkpoint, disaggregated by the number of United
10 States citizens, lawful permanent residents, and
11 aliens.

12 (b) ARREST DATA.—Not later than 30 days after the
13 date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner for
14 U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall—

15 (1) document and publicly report on the num-
16 ber of agents operating in the interior of the United
17 States;

18 (2) provide detailed information regarding each
19 such agent’s training with respect to conducting
20 searches and seizures in compliance with the Fourth
21 Amendment to the Constitution of the United
22 States;

23 (3) document and publicly report on the dis-
24 position of each interaction such agent has while in
25 the interior with a United States citizen, a lawful

1 permanent resident, or another alien, including
2 whether such person was arrested, detained,
3 stopped, or charged with a crime or a civil offense.