

Despite more than 7 million illegal immigrants coming to the United State since Joe Biden took office, Mary Peltola voted against a bill that would have secured the U.S. southern border and stopped the flow of fentanyl into our communities.

Peltola Voted Against Restarting Construction Of A Border Wall And Reforming Asylum

On May 11, 2023, Peltola Voted Against The Secure The Border Act. “Passage of the bill, as amended, that would require the Homeland Security Department to take a number of actions to limit illegal immigration into the United States, including by resuming construction of the ‘border wall’ along the southwestern border, bolstering Customs and Border Protection, reopening border detention facilities, limiting asylum applications and eligibility, and establishing a mandatory employment verification system. To enhance physical border security, the bill would require DHS to resume all previously planned border wall construction on the U.S.-Mexico border. It would require DHS to design, install and operate at least 900 total miles of physical barriers and other infrastructure and technology along the border, until the department achieves ‘operational control’ of the border, defined under current law as the prevention of all unlawful entries into the country. To bolster operations and capacity of Customs and Border Protection, the bill would require CBP to maintain at least 22,000 full-time agents by Sept. 30, 2025, and authorize up to \$100 million for agent retention bonuses. It would authorize \$110 million annually through fiscal 2028 for new DHS grants to law enforcement agencies in border states to assist with CBP operations. It would authorize funding for CBP to upgrade license plate readers and install cameras, microphones, and surveillance and intrusion detection systems at the northern and southern borders. It would require CBP to issue and regularly update a strategic plan to enhance U.S. border security, including to address security gaps between ports of entry, staffing requirements and information sharing. It would require DHS to ensure that the CBP Air and Marine Operations carries out at least 110,000 flight hours annually and operates unmanned aircraft systems over the southern border 24 hours per day. As amended, the bill would require Congress to commission a report that contains a national strategy to address Mexican drug cartels, including a determination of whether there should be a designation established to address such cartels. Among provisions limiting eligibility for asylum within the United States, the bill would specify that noncitizens are eligible for asylum only if they arrived at an official U.S. port of entry. It would tighten standards for determining whether an individual has a ‘credible fear of persecution’ and is persecuted as part of a ‘social group’ or based on a ‘political opinion.’ It would expand reasons disqualifying individuals from asylum eligibility, including convictions for certain offenses such as using a false ID, domestic violence, child abuse, certain drug possession or trafficking, and repeated or serious driving while intoxicated; traveling through but not seeking asylum in at least one other country party to certain refugee protection treaties; and ability to avoid persecution by relocating to another part of their home country. It would require DHS to return asylum seekers who cannot be detained to a safe third country during their immigration proceedings. Among other immigration enforcement provisions, the bill would require DHS to reopen or restore the use of all Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities that were in operation on Jan. 20, 2021. It would require DHS to detain parents and their children together and return all unaccompanied children to their country of origin. It would limit ‘parole’ authority allowing noncitizens to temporarily live and work in the U.S. allowing DHS to grant parole only on a case-by-case individual basis. The bill would require DHS to create a system based on the E-Verify pilot program to verify whether prospective employees are eligible to work in the U.S. and gradually require all employers to begin using the new system over 24 months, with 36-month deadline for agricultural sector employers.” (H.R. 2, [Roll Call Vote #209](#): Passed 219-213: R 219-2; D 0-211; 5/11/23, Peltola Voted Nay; [CQ Summary](#), Accessed 5/19/23)

The Open Border Enables Cartels To Traffic Fentanyl Into The United States

“Our Open Southern Border Enables Cartels To Easily Traffic Drugs And Kill Americans. According To The NIH, 70,601 Americans Died From Fentanyl Poisoning In 2021.” (“Issue Toolkit: The Secure The Border Act,” [Heritage Action for America](#), Accessed 7/9/24)