

Senator Sinema National Defense Authorization Act Wins for Arizona

Solving a Decades-long Challenge for Nogales

Nogales Wastewater Improvement Act

- Senator Sinema's [Nogales Wastewater Improvement Act](#) represents a historic agreement between the City of Nogales and the federal government. The legislation transfers the ownership, operations, and maintenance of the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) to the U.S.-section of the International Boundary and Water Commission.
- Families in Nogales have faced challenges with untreated wastewater coming from Mexico and overflowing into streets during storm events. Sinema's legislation will streamline the ability for the government to respond to crises on the US-side of the border and authorizes full funding for operations and maintenance into the future.
- Additionally, drug smugglers in Mexico use the IOI to send narcotics and other illicit goods through the pipeline from the Mexico-side of the border to be retrieved on the U.S.-side. This pipeline is being used as a tunnel for illicit trafficking – directly below the Customs and Border Protection DeConcini Port of Entry. Sinema's bill authorizes the construction of a drug screen at the border to catch the illicit materials cartels are sending into Arizona communities before they can be retrieved.

Combating Fentanyl + Cartel Smuggling

FEND Off Fentanyl Act

- Senator Sinema's [FEND Off Fentanyl Act](#) strengthens America's response to the fentanyl crisis and stops the flow of fentanyl into Arizona. The legislation targets cartels financially to crack down on fentanyl trafficking across Arizona's border.
- The bill would declare the international trafficking of opioids to be a national emergency, require the President to sanction a drug cartel's key members engaged in the international opioid trade, allow the President to confiscate and deposit drug traffickers' assets into the Treasury's forfeiture fund, and extend the statute of limitations from 5 years to 10 years for sanctions violations to increase chances to catch these criminals.
- Additionally, Sinema's *FEND Off Fentanyl Act* would follow the money trail and make it harder for opioid traffickers to engage in money laundering to hide their crimes.

Combating Cartels on Social Media

- Senator Sinema's [Combating Cartels on Social Media Act](#) keeps families safe by cracking down on cartels that recruit teenagers through social media to conduct smuggling and trafficking.
- The bipartisan bill establishes and implements a national strategy to combat illicit recruitment activity by transnational criminal organizations on social media and other online platforms to fight back against cartels using online platforms to [recruit Arizonans](#) for smuggling operations along the Southwest border. The strategy will help law enforcement hold cartels accountable while also giving border communities in Arizona the tools they need to engage with and educate at-risk youth who are targeted by the cartels.

Strengthening Border Security

Securing America's Ports of Entry Act

- Senator Sinema's [Securing America's Ports of Entry Act](#) strengthens border security and addresses CBP Office of Field Operations (OFO) staffing shortages on the Southwest border by authorizing CBP OFO to hire at least 600 CBP officers every year for five years. The bill directs the Government Accountability Office to conduct a review of CBP hiring practices if the agency is unable to meet this hiring minimum.
- Sinema's legislation requires the CBP to report on infrastructure needs at ports of entry to improve drug interdiction capabilities and protect officers' safety. The bipartisan legislation also requires reporting on the agency's increasing reliance on reimbursable service agreements and temporary duty assignments to cover its system-wide staffing shortfalls.

Border Patrol Enhancement Act

- Senator Sinema's [Border Patrol Enhancement Act](#) improves Border Patrol staffing by setting a staffing level for Border Patrol based on the needs outlined in a Personnel Requirements Determination Model, and making sure that Border Patrol agents receive fair overtime pay for scheduled overtime work.

Servicemember + Military Family Wellbeing

Military Spouse Unemployment Act

- Senator Sinema's [Military Spouse Employment Act](#) empowers military spouses to continue their careers no matter where life takes them.
- Military spouse unemployment is [much higher](#) than the national average. A [recent survey](#) found that spouse unemployment was the biggest stressor for the second year in a row for servicemembers and their partners.
- Sinema's legislation grants federal agencies the authority to hire military spouses for remote work and allow military spouses to retain their positions should they be transferred to another location, providing certainty that they can care for their families no matter where life takes them.

COMFORT Act

- Senator Sinema's [Comforting Our Families through On-base or Remote Treatment \(COMFORT\) Act](#) strengthens access to counseling services on military installations by allowing Military and Family Life counselors to work outside of the state in which they are licensed.
- Sinema's *COMFORT Act* helps meet the demand and solve the provider shortage by allowing the Department of Defense to contract licensed Military and Family Life counselors to serve military installations across the country.

###