

# Ted Cruz Introduces Bill to Use El Chapo's Drug Money to Fund Border Wall

[Via](#) the Hill:

*Sen. [Ted Cruz](#) (R-Texas) is introducing a bill to allow assets seized from drug lords, like Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, to fund President Trump's proposed wall along the U.S.-Mexico border.*

*Cruz's bill, the Ensuring Lawful Collection of Hidden Assets to Provide Order Act, also known as the "El Chapo Act," is a reference to the Mexican drug kingpin from the Sinaloa cartel.*

*[The U.S. government is seeking](#) \$14 billion from the drug lord as part of its prosecution of Guzman.*

*"Fourteen billion dollars will go a long way toward building a wall that will keep Americans safe and hinder the illegal flow of drugs, weapons and individuals across our southern border," Cruz said Tuesday, [according to](#) Axios.*

I have to say, this seems like a rather clever solution. Using cash seized by drug lords to beef up border security looks like good policy and good politics.

But I suspect Cruz's proposal is unlikely to draw much new support, and here's why: The cost of the wall was never really the problem. The issue is that people don't like the symbolism of walls (even though more walls [are currently being constructed](#) than at any time in modern history).

Walls, [as we've already noted](#), strike "at the heart of our modern, cultural orthodoxies." Polite people don't advocate

walls, at least not in polite company—even if they are effective.

Nearly 700 miles of fence [already exists](#) on the U.S.-Mexico border, but the idea of erecting an actual wall troubles many Americans (and, thus, many politicians).

Is there a solution to this?

I suspect that if President Trump [continues to cave on his promise](#) to build a big, beautiful wall, but receives adequate funding to create double-layer fencing and beef up security in key trouble spots, most border hawks will be appeased.