

NEWS & RECORD

Why a border wall does more harm than good

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The conservative Cato Institute says President Trump's wall would have little impact on illegal immigration. A Cato study said a wall only covering 700 miles of the 2,000-mile border would cost \$7 billion. MIT engineers said the wall would cost \$31.2 billion and Homeland Security estimates a cost of \$22 billion. Maybe Trump wants a signature section of only 500 miles for his \$5 billion so he can designate that section, The Trump Wall.

Here is why the wall won't work. It can be breached by a tunnel under or over. Fifty-eight percent of illegal immigrants overstay their visas per a 2012 study. According to DEA, almost all drugs come through legal points of entry. It's environmentally impractical with extreme weather with floods and raging water and damage to plant and animal life. Government will be forced to take private U.S. land in eminent domain. Border agents say a wall blocks surveillance capabilities and is useless without extra agents and technology.

This is not a security wall. It's a political wall so Trump can accomplish his first promise to his voters after he came down the escalator.