

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2183

United States international programming to Ukraine and neighboring regions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 27, 2014

Mr. MCCONNELL introduced the following bill; which was read twice,
considered, read the third time, and passed

A BILL

United States international programming to Ukraine and
neighboring regions.

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. FINDINGS AND DECLARATIONS.**

4 (a) Congress finds and declares the following:

5 (1) The Russian Government has deliberately
6 blocked the Ukrainian people's access to uncensored
7 sources of information and has provided alternative
8 news and information that is both inaccurate and in-
9 flammatory.

10 (2) United States international programming
11 exists to advance the United States interests and

1 values by presenting accurate and comprehensive
2 news and information, which is the foundation for
3 democratic governance.

4 (3) The opinions and views of the Ukrainian
5 people, especially those people located in the eastern
6 regions and Crimea, are not being accurately rep-
7 resented in Russian dominated mass media.

8 (4) Russian forces have seized more than five
9 television stations in Crimea and taken over trans-
10 missions, switching to a 24/7 Russian propaganda
11 format; this increase in programming augments the
12 already robust pro-Russian programming to
13 Ukraine.

14 (5) United States international programming
15 has the potential to combat this anti-democratic
16 propaganda.

17 (b) PROGRAMMING.—Radio Free Europe/Radio Lib-
18 erty (RFE/RL), Incorporated, and the Voice of America
19 service to Ukraine and neighboring regions shall—

20 (1) provide news and information that is acces-
21 sible, credible, and accurate;

22 (2) emphasize investigative and analytical jour-
23 nalism to highlight inconsistencies and misinforma-
24 tion provided by Russian or pro-Russian media out-
25 lets;

1 (3) prioritize programming to areas where ac-
2 cess to uncensored sources of information is limited
3 or non-existent, especially populations serviced by
4 Russian supported media outlets;

5 (4) increase the number of reporters and orga-
6 nizational presence in eastern Ukraine, especially in
7 Crimea;

8 (5) promote democratic processes, respect for
9 human rights, freedom of the press, and territorial
10 sovereignty; and

11 (6) take necessary preparatory steps to con-
12 tinue and increase programming and content that
13 promotes democracy and government transparency
14 in Russia.

15 (c) PROGRAMMING SURGE.—RFE/RL, Incorporated,
16 and Voice of America programming to Ukraine and neigh-
17 boring regions shall—

18 (1) prioritize programming to eastern Ukraine,
19 including Crimea, and Moldova, and to ethnic and
20 linguistic Russian populations, as well as to Tatar
21 minorities;

22 (2) prioritize news and information that directly
23 contributes to the target audiences' understanding of
24 political and economic developments in Ukraine and
25 Moldova, including countering misinformation that

1 may originate from other news outlets, especially
2 Russian supported news outlets;

3 (3) provide programming content 24 hours a
4 day, seven days a week to target populations, using
5 all available and effective distribution outlets, includ-
6 ing—

7 (A) at least 8 weekly hours of total original
8 television and video content in Ukrainian, Rus-
9 sian, and Tatar languages, not inclusive of live
10 video streaming coverage of breaking news, to
11 be distributed on satellite, digital, and through
12 regional television affiliates by the Voice of
13 America; and

14 (B) at least 14 weekly hours the total
15 audio content in Ukrainian, Russian, and Tatar
16 languages to be distributed on satellite, digital,
17 and through regional radio affiliates of RFE/
18 RL, Incorporated;

19 (4) expand the use, audience, and audience en-
20 gagement of mobile news and multimedia platforms
21 by RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of Amer-
22 ica, including through Internet-based social net-
23 working platforms; and

24 (5) partner with private sector broadcasters and
25 affiliates to seek and start co-production for new,

1 original content, when possible, to increase distribu-
2 tion.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2014, in addi-
5 tion to funds otherwise made available for such purposes,
6 up to \$10,000,000 to carry out programming in the
7 Ukrainian, Balkan, Russian, and Tatar language services
8 of RFE/RL, Incorporated, and the Voice of America, for
9 the purpose of bolstering existing United States program-
10 ming to the people of Ukraine and neighboring regions,
11 and increasing programming capacity and jamming cir-
12 cumvention technology to overcome any disruptions to
13 service.

14 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 15 days after the date
15 of the enactment of this Act, the Broadcasting Board of
16 Governors shall submit to the Committees on Foreign Af-
17 fairs and Appropriations of the House of Representatives
18 and the Committees on Foreign Relations and Appropria-
19 tions of the Senate a detailed report on plans to increase
20 broadcasts pursuant to subsections (a) and (b).

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