

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2517

To require a report on United States strategy to combat terrorist use of social media, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 9, 2016

Mr. JOHNSON (for himself and Mrs. ERNST) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To require a report on United States strategy to combat terrorist use of social media, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Combat Terrorist Use
5 of Social Media Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
9 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional com-
10 mittees” means—

1 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
2 the House of Representatives;

3 (B) the Committee on Armed Services of
4 the House of Representatives;

5 (C) the Committee on Homeland Security
6 of the House of Representatives;

7 (D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
8 House of Representatives;

9 (E) the Permanent Select Committee on
10 Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

11 (F) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
12 the Senate;

13 (G) the Committee on Armed Services of
14 the Senate;

15 (H) the Committee on Homeland Security
16 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

17 (I) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
18 Senate; and

19 (J) the Select Committee on Intelligence of
20 the Senate.

21 (2) DOMESTIC TERRORISM; INTERNATIONAL
22 TERRORISM.—The terms “domestic terrorism” and
23 “international terrorism” have the meaning given
24 such terms in section 2331 of title 18, United States
25 Code.

1 (3) RADICALIZATION.—The term “radicaliza-
2 tion” means the process by which an individual
3 shifts from a nonviolent belief system to a belief sys-
4 tem that includes the willingness to actively advo-
5 cate, facilitate, or practice ideologically motivated
6 international terrorism or domestic terrorism as a
7 method to effect societal or political change.

8 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON STRATEGY TO COMBAT TERRORIST USE**
9 **OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the
11 date of enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit
12 to the appropriate congressional committees a report on
13 United States strategy to combat terrorists’ and terrorist
14 organizations’ use of social media.

15 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
16 (a) shall include the following:

17 (1) An evaluation of the role of social media in
18 radicalization domestically and abroad.

19 (2) An analysis of how terrorists and terrorist
20 organizations are using social media, including
21 trends.

22 (3) A summary of the Federal Government’s ef-
23 forts to monitor, review, disrupt, and counter the
24 use of social media by terrorists and terrorist orga-

1 nizations, an evaluation of the success of such ef-
2 forts, and recommendations for improvement.

3 (4) An analysis of how the Federal Government
4 is using social media to counter terrorist propaganda
5 and radicalization domestically and abroad.

6 (5) An assessment of the value to law enforce-
7 ment officials and the intelligence community of re-
8 viewing and analyzing social media posts by terror-
9 ists and terrorist organizations.

10 (6) An overview of available local, State, and
11 Federal social media training programs to under-
12 stand and combat the use of social media by terror-
13 ists and terrorist organizations, the required quali-
14 fications for trainers in each program, the intended
15 students of each program, as well as recommenda-
16 tions for improving or expanding existing training
17 opportunities and training participation.

18 (c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a)
19 should be submitted in unclassified form, and may include
20 a classified annex in accordance with the protection of in-
21 telligence sources and methods.

1 **SEC. 4. POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO**
2 **COUNTER TERRORISTS' AND TERRORIST OR-**
3 **GANIZATIONS' USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

4 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the
5 date of enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit
6 to the appropriate congressional committees a report that
7 contains a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorists'
8 and terrorist organizations' use of social media, as com-
9 mitted to in the President's 2011 "Strategic Implementa-
10 tion Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Vio-
11 lent Extremism in the United States".

12 (b) **FORM.**—The report required by subsection (a)
13 should be submitted in unclassified form, and may include
14 a classified annex in accordance with the protection of in-
15 telligence sources and methods.

16 **SEC. 5. PROHIBITION ON NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

17 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as granting
18 the President or any department or agency of the Federal
19 Government authority to promulgate regulations or set
20 standards relating to non-Federal entities.

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