

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5490

To establish an interagency Task Force to dismantle and shut down transnational criminal syndicates perpetuating mass online scam operations against Americans.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2025

Mr. SHREVE (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. RULLI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish an interagency Task Force to dismantle and shut down transnational criminal syndicates perpetuating mass online scam operations against Americans.

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 “Dismantle Foreign
5 Scam Syndicates Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) During the COVID–19 pandemic, Chinese
2 criminal organizations active in Southeast Asia
3 pivoted to a new and potent form of financial scam
4 involving elaborate fraudulent online cryptocurrency
5 investment schemes.

6 (2) The most common form of such financial
7 scam is known as “pig butchering”, Chinese crimi-
8 nal slang that describes how scammers develop a vir-
9 tual relationship inducing them to invest ever larger
10 sums into phony platforms, serving to ‘fatten’ their
11 victims for the slaughter.

12 (3) Crime syndicates use the forced labor of
13 hundreds of thousands of victims of human traf-
14 ficking to perpetrate such scams.

15 (4) These victims themselves fall prey to false
16 job advertisements before they are taken to a com-
17 pound and forced to meet aggressive scam quotas
18 under pain of violent punishment if they refuse.

19 (5) These so-called “scam centers” are most
20 prevalent across Burma, Laos, and Cambodia, cor-
21 rupt and repressive countries where transparency is
22 absent, rule of law is anemic and checks and bal-
23 ances are non-existent, and often operate as joint
24 ventures between the Chinese criminal groups orga-
25 nizations and the autocratic governments.

1 (6) Since 2021, these scams have increasingly
2 targeted Americans, robbing thousands of their life
3 savings and enriching and entrenching transnational
4 criminal syndicates and corrupt leaders in Cam-
5 bodia, Laos and Burma.

6 (7) American losses to these scams grew by 33
7 percent year-on-year in 2024.

8 (8) According to the Department of Treasury,
9 Americans lost at least \$10,000,000,000 from these
10 operations in 2024 alone.

11 (9) Global losses are estimated to be higher
12 than \$60,000,000,000 annually.

13 (10) The true dollar amount of losses to these
14 scams is estimated to be much higher as many in-
15 stances go unreported.

16 (11) Troubling links exist between the People's
17 Republic of China, Chinese criminal scam syn-
18 dicates, and the corrupt local politicians enabling
19 their rise.

20 **SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

21 It shall be the policy of the United States to com-
22 prehensively combat the transnational organized criminals
23 operating human trafficking compounds primarily in
24 Southeast Asia to perpetrate large-scale online scams
25 against the American people.

1 **SEC. 4. TASK FORCE.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 30 days after
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall
4 establish an interagency Task Force responsible for lead-
5 ing a whole-of-government effort to dismantle and shut
6 down transnational criminal syndicates perpetuating mass
7 online scam operations against Americans through the op-
8 eration of large-scale scam compounds fueled by the forced
9 labor of victims of trafficking in persons.

10 (b) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

11 (1) not later than 180 days after the date of
12 the enactment of this Act, develop and submit to the
13 appropriate congressional committees a comprehen-
14 sive United States Government strategy to shut
15 down online scam centers, prevent their further pro-
16 liferation, disrupt and dismantle transnational crimi-
17 nal entities and human traffickers involved in oper-
18 ating such centers, and hold accountable corrupt of-
19 ficials, state, and non-state actors enabling such en-
20 tities and traffickers for the purpose of incentivizing
21 cooperation; and

22 (2) coordinate and oversee implementation of
23 such strategy.

24 (c) LEADERSHIP AND COMPOSITION.—The Task
25 Force shall—

1 (1) be chaired by the Secretary of State (or the
2 Secretary's designee);

3 (2) meet on a regular basis at the call of the
4 Chair; and

5 (3) be comprised of the heads (or the heads'
6 designees) of—

7 (A) the Department of State, including the
8 Bureau of International Narcotics and Law En-
9 forcement Affairs, the Bureau of East Asian
10 and Pacific Affairs, and the Office to Monitor
11 and Combat Trafficking in Persons;

12 (B) the Department of Justice, including
13 the Federal Bureau of Investigation;

14 (C) the Department of Homeland Security,
15 including the U.S. Secret Service and Home-
16 land Security Investigations; and

17 (D) the Department of the Treasury, in-
18 cluding the Office of Terrorism and Financial
19 Intelligence, the Office of Foreign Assets Con-
20 trol, and Financial Crimes Enforcement Net-
21 work.

22 (d) FURTHER COMPOSITION.—The heads (or the
23 heads' designees) of the following entities are authorized
24 to be members of the Task Force:

1 (1) The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commis-
2 sion.

3 (2) The Federal Trade Commission.

4 (3) The Federal Communications Commission.

5 (4) Any other department, agency, or entity the
6 President determines to be relevant.

7 (e) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The intelligence
8 community is authorized to provide support to the Task
9 Force.

10 (f) INFORMATION SHARING.—To ensure proper co-
11 ordination and effective interagency action, each Federal
12 department or agency represented on the Task Force shall
13 fully share—

14 (1) all relevant data with the Task Force; and

15 (2) all information regarding the department or
16 agency’s plans, before and after final agency deci-
17 sions are made, on all matters relating to actions re-
18 garding combating online scams.

19 (g) CONSULTATION.—The Task Force or representa-
20 tives thereof shall—

21 (1) consult quarterly with United States State
22 and local law enforcement entities and stakeholder
23 organizations with firsthand expertise in reporting
24 and combatting online scam operations, cybercams
25 known as “pig butchering scams”, and other kinds

1 of cyberscams, and recovering stolen crypto assets,
2 and incorporate their feedback and recommendations
3 to the maximum extent feasible;

4 (2) consult regularly with U.S. non-govern-
5 mental organizations with expertise in countering
6 trafficking in persons or anti-corruption, as appro-
7 priate; and

8 (3) develop partnerships with relevant private
9 sector actors, including banks, social media plat-
10 forms, online dating applications, telecommunication
11 carriers, cryptocurrency exchanges, internet service
12 providers, applications stores, search engines, and
13 search optimization companies, for the purpose of
14 better disrupting the enabling infrastructure of scam
15 compounds, operations, and syndicates.

16 (h) SUNSET.—The Task Force shall terminate on the
17 date that is seven years after the date of the enactment
18 of this Act.

19 **SEC. 5. ELEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The strategy required by section
21 1(b)(1) shall incorporate the following objectives:

22 (1) Bringing pressure to bear on foreign gov-
23 ernments, in coordination with allies and partners to
24 the greatest extent possible, that are complicit in,

1 tolerant of, or uncooperative in combatting online
2 scam operations.

3 (2) Investigating the People's Republic of Chi-
4 na's (PRC) involvement in the origin and perpetua-
5 tion of online scam operations, including through
6 links between Chinese Communist Party officials
7 and criminal organizations, deepening regional secu-
8 rity influence, and selective crackdowns that
9 incentivize the targeting of Americans.

10 (3) Investigating the Burmese military's in-
11 volvement in allowing, neglecting, and profiting from
12 online scam operations in Burma, and the impor-
13 tance of resolving the instability and violence in
14 Burma to stop the unfettered operation of scam cen-
15 ters in Burma.

16 (4) Responding comprehensively to PRC com-
17 plicity in and instrumentalization of online scam op-
18 erations.

19 (5) Reducing the power, influence, and scope of
20 transnational criminal organizations and operations
21 in Southeast Asia and wherever else they may prop-
22 agate.

23 (6) Building the capacity of trusted foreign law
24 enforcement partners to degrade, disrupt, and shut
25 down online scam centers and prevent their pro-

1 liferation, including through training in digital
2 forensics, anti-money laundering, and border patrol.

3 (7) Building the capacity of trusted foreign law
4 enforcement partners to screen for and protect vic-
5 tims of trafficking in persons in a trauma-informed
6 manner, prosecute traffickers, and prevent traf-
7 ficking into online scam centers, including through
8 public awareness campaigns.

9 (8) Imposing sanctions or other relevant des-
10 ignations, comprehensively and in coordination with
11 allies and partners to the greatest extent possible, on
12 the perpetrators and enablers of online scams, using
13 relevant transnational organized crime, corruption,
14 human rights, and trafficking in persons authorities.

15 (9) Advocating for the greylisting or black-
16 listing, as appropriate, of countries involved in state-
17 sponsored scam operations, including Cambodia, at
18 the Financial Action Task Force.

19 (10) Harnessing offensive cyber capabilities to
20 degrade online scam centers' operations.

21 (11) Recovering and returning stolen assets of
22 defrauded United States persons.

23 (12) Integrating data collection, analysis, and
24 response mechanisms across Federal, State, and
25 local agencies, including by assessing if any existing

1 relevant Fusion Centers could be leveraged to com-
2 bat online scam centers.

3 (13) Convening a coalition of like-minded for-
4 eign allies and partners to combat online scam cen-
5 ters, including through the establishment of similar
6 task forces or working groups, the compilation and
7 sharing of data, and collaboration regarding the in-
8 dictment of key actors and enablers.

9 (b) MEASURABLE INDICATORS.—The Task Force
10 shall develop measurable indicators of the success of the
11 strategy required by section 1731(b)(1), which may in-
12 clude persons sanctioned, arrest warrants or indictments
13 issued, arrests made, U.S. losses mitigated, and the num-
14 ber of victims of trafficking in persons rescued, and known
15 scam centers reduced, in comparison to the previous year.

16 **SEC. 6. ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 360 days after the
18 date of the submission of the strategy required by section
19 1(b)(1), and annually thereafter for five years, the Task
20 Force shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-
21 mittees a report that includes, for the previous year the
22 following:

23 (1) A list of all foreign persons sanctioned by
24 the United States for being responsible for, complicit
25 in, or responsible for ordering, controlling, or other-

1 wise directing, online financial scams against United
2 States nationals.

3 (2) For the foreign persons listed in paragraph
4 (1), an assessment and review of their ongoing in-
5 volvement in the operation of scam centers, includ-
6 ing an identification of entities in particular from
7 within the People's Republic of China that aid or
8 abet such foreign persons.

9 (3) An estimate of how much money was stolen
10 from United States nationals through scams ema-
11 nating from online scam centers, including as a per-
12 centage of the estimated total amount stolen
13 through such scams globally.

14 (4) An estimate of how many stolen funds were
15 intercepted, seized, or returned.

16 (5) An estimate of how many victims of traf-
17 ficking in persons were employed in online scam cen-
18 ters.

19 (6) An estimate of the total number of people
20 involved in operating or supporting the operation of
21 scam centers.

22 (7) A list of known online scam centers.

23 (8) A description of if, where, and how online
24 scam centers and operations have proliferated glob-
25 ally.

1 (9) Recommendations on the kinds of programs
2 the Department of State should support in order to
3 effectively implement the strategy described in sub-
4 section (c), including the level of appropriations such
5 programs would require.

6 (10) Any other measures the Task Force deter-
7 mines appropriate to include.

8 (b) FORM.—Each report submitted pursuant to sub-
9 section (a) shall be unclassified but may include a classi-
10 fied annex.

11 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Task Force shall consult
12 regularly with the appropriate congressional committees
13 on its efforts to implement the strategy required by section
14 1(b)(1), including potential updates. Such consultations
15 should include descriptions of the Task Force’s periodic
16 consultations with local law enforcement agencies and civil
17 society organizations and any incorporated recommenda-
18 tions, as well as recommendations for strengthening the
19 Task Force’s capability to effectively shut down online
20 scam centers, dismantle criminal scam organizations, and
21 recoup stolen U.S. assets. Such consultations may take the
22 form of briefings.

23 **SEC. 7. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.**

24 (a) DETERMINATION, IMPOSITION, AND REPORT RE-
25 QUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the

1 enactment of this Act, the President shall, in accordance
2 with the strategy required by section 1(b)(1)—

3 (1) determine whether each foreign person list-
4 ed in subsection (d) meets the statutory criteria for
5 the imposition of sanctions under one or more of the
6 sanctions programs and authorities listed in sub-
7 section (c);

8 (2) pursuant to paragraph (1), impose applica-
9 ble sanctions against such foreign persons deter-
10 mined to meet such criteria for imposition of sanc-
11 tions; and

12 (3) submit to the appropriate congressional
13 committees a report containing—

14 (A) a list of all foreign persons determined
15 to meet such criteria; and

16 (B) for any foreign person listed in sub-
17 section (d) that is not determined to meet the
18 criteria for the imposition of sanctions under
19 one or more of the sanctions programs and au-
20 thorities listed in subsection (c), a complete jus-
21 tification of such a non-determination or deci-
22 sion to otherwise not apply the sanctions au-
23 thorized by such sanctions programs and au-
24 thorities.

1 (b) WAIVER.—The President may waive the imposi-
2 tion of sanctions with respect to a foreign person listed
3 in subsection (d) on or after the date that is 15 days after
4 the President—

5 (1) determines that such a waiver is vital to the
6 national security interests of the United States; and

7 (2) submits to the appropriate congressional
8 committees the reasons for that determination.

9 (c) APPLICABLE SANCTIONS.—The sanctions listed in
10 this subsection are the sanctions described in the fol-
11 lowing:

12 (1) Sections 1262 through 1264 of the Global
13 Magnitsky Human Rights Accountability Act (22
14 U.S.C. 10101 et seq.).

15 (2) Section 111 of the Trafficking Victims Pro-
16 tection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7108).

17 (3) Executive Order 13581, relating to
18 Transnational Criminal Organization Sanctions.

19 (d) FOREIGN PERSONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The foreign persons listed in
21 this subsection are the following:

22 (A) Aik Paung.

23 (B) Benjamin Mauerberger.

24 (C) Chen Xiuling.

25 (D) D. Chen Zhi.

- 1 (E) Chou Bun Eng.
- 2 (F) Dy Vichea.
- 3 (G) Edward Lee.
- 4 (H) Gabriel Tan.
- 5 (I) Honn Sorachna.
- 6 (J) Hun To.
- 7 (K) Ing Dara.
- 8 (L) Kok An.
- 9 (M) Kuoch Chamrouen.
- 10 (N) Li Xiong.
- 11 (O) Long Dimanche.
- 12 (P) Ma Dongli.
- 13 (Q) Michael Chiam.
- 14 (R) Mote Thun.
- 15 (S) Neth Savoeun.
- 16 (T) Rithy Raksmei.
- 17 (U) Sai Aung Lin.
- 18 (V) Sai Kyaw Hla.
- 19 (W) Sar Sokha.
- 20 (X) Saw Min Min Oo.
- 21 (Y) Su Zhongkian.
- 22 (Z) Yan Borith.
- 23 (AA) Yan Narong.
- 24 (BB) Yan Sathya.
- 25 (CC) Yim Leak.

1 (DD) Yu Jianjun.

2 (EE) Yu Lingxiong.

3 (FF) Zhong Baojia (also known as Wang
4 Qiang).

5 (GG) 9 Dynasty.

6 (HH) Dongmei Group.

7 (II) Fully Light Group of Companies,
8 LTD.

9 (JJ) Hongmen World Cultural and Histor-
10 ical Association.

11 (KK) Huione Group.

12 (LL) K99 Group.

13 (MM) Prince Group Holding Company.

14 (NN) Trans-Asia International Holding
15 Group.

16 (OO) Union Development Group.

17 (PP) White Sands Palace Casino.

18 (QQ) Xinwang International.

19 (RR) Any person, organization, or entity
20 determined by the President, based on credible
21 evidence, to be responsible for, complicit in, or
22 responsible for ordering, controlling, or other-
23 wise directing, online financial scams against
24 United States nationals, including those scams
25 originating from compounds in Southeast Asia

1 in which victims of severe forms of trafficking
2 in persons are forced to engage in illegal scam
3 activity.

4 (2) EXCEPTION.—In accordance with section
5 102(b)(19) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act
6 of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7101(b)(19)), no person deter-
7 mined by the President to be a victim of trafficking
8 in persons shall be considered to be a foreign person
9 listed in this subsection for purposes of imposition of
10 sanctions under this section.

11 **SEC. 8. PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT VICTIMS OF FORCED**
12 **CRIMINALITY.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State is author-
14 ized to carry out programs, out of the funds authorized
15 to be appropriated by section 6 and in accordance with
16 section 106(a) of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act
17 of 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7105(a)), to provide trauma-informed
18 care, shelter, reintegration, and support services for vic-
19 tims of trafficking in persons within online scam centers.

20 (b) DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION.—The Task
21 Force shall ensure programs authorized by subsection (a)
22 are designed and implemented in a manner that prevents
23 revictimization and gains information and evidence critical
24 to understanding online scam centers' operations and
25 prosecuting scammers.

1 **SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000
3 for the Department of State for each of the fiscal years
4 2026 and 2027 to develop, coordinate, and implement the
5 strategy required by section 1(b)(1).

6 **SEC. 10. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act—

8 (1) the term “appropriate committees of Con-
9 gress” means—

10 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
11 the House of Representatives; and

12 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
13 the Senate; and

14 (2) the term “intelligence community” has the
15 meaning given that term in section 3 of the National
16 Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

○