

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5729

To modernize authorities to fight and win the war of ideas against violent extremist ideologies over the internet and other mediums of information, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 13, 2010

Mr. THORNBERRY (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. GIFFORDS, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. TANNER, Mr. BOREN, and Mr. ROHRABACHER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To modernize authorities to fight and win the war of ideas against violent extremist ideologies over the internet and other mediums of information, 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 “The Smith-Mundt
5 Modernization Act of 2010”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISSEMINATION ABROAD OF INFORMATION ABOUT**
2 **THE UNITED STATES.**

3 (a) UNITED STATES INFORMATION AND EDU-
4 CATIONAL EXCHANGE ACT OF 1948.—Title V of the
5 United States Information and Educational Exchange Act
6 of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1461 et seq.) is amended—

7 (1) in the title heading, by striking
8 **“ABROAD”**; and

9 (2) by amending section 501 to read as follows:

10 “SEC. 501. The Secretary is authorized to provide for
11 the preparation and dissemination of information intended
12 primarily for foreign audiences abroad about the United
13 States, including about its people, its history, and the Fed-
14 eral Government’s policies, through press, publications,
15 radio, motion pictures, the internet, and other information
16 media, and through information centers and instructors.”.

17 (b) FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FIS-
18 CAL YEARS 1986 AND 1987.—Section 208 of the Foreign
19 Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987
20 (22 U.S.C. 1461–1a) is amended to read as follows:

21 “CLARIFICATION ON DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION OF
22 PROGRAM MATERIAL

23 “SEC. 208.

24 “(a) No funds authorized to be appropriated to the
25 Department of State shall be used for the purpose of influ-
26 encing public opinion or propagandizing in the United

1 States. The provisions of this section shall not prohibit
2 or delay the Department from responding to inquiries
3 about its operations, policies, programs, or program mate-
4 rial, or making such available to members of the media,
5 public, or Congress.

6 “(b) No provision of this section shall be construed
7 or interpreted to prohibit the Department of State to en-
8 gage in any medium of information on a presumption that
9 a United States domestic audience may be exposed to pro-
10 gram material. Such material shall be available within the
11 United States and disseminated pursuant to sections 502
12 and 1005 of the United States Information and Edu-
13 cational Exchange Act of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1462 and
14 1437).

15 “(c) The provisions of this section shall apply only
16 to the Department of State and to no other department
17 or agency of the Federal Government.”.

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