

Calendar No. 551

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 2517****[Report No. 114–295]**

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, Mrs. ERNST, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

JULY 11, 2016

Reported by Mr. JOHNSON, with amendments

[Omit the part struck through and insert the part printed in *italie*]**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”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
4 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-
5 mittees” means—

6 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
7 the House of Representatives;

8 (B) the Committee on Armed Services of
9 the House of Representatives;

10 (C) the Committee on Homeland Security
11 of the House of Representatives;

12 (D) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
13 House of Representatives;

14 (E) the Permanent Select Committee on
15 Intelligence of the House of Representatives;

16 (F) the Committee on Foreign Relations of
17 the Senate;

18 (G) the Committee on Armed Services of
19 the Senate;

20 (H) the Committee on Homeland Security
21 and Governmental Affairs of the Senate;

22 (I) the Committee on the Judiciary of the
23 Senate; and

24 (J) the Select Committee on Intelligence of
25 the Senate.

1 (2) DOMESTIC TERRORISM; INTERNATIONAL
 2 TERRORISM.—The terms “domestic terrorism” and
 3 “international terrorism” have the ~~meaning~~ *mean-*
 4 *ings* given such terms in section 2331 of title 18,
 5 United States Code.

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

13 (3) *RADICALIZATION.—The term “radicaliza-*
 14 ~~*tion” means the process by which an individual*~~
 15 ~~*chooses to facilitate or commit international terrorism*~~
 16 ~~*or domestic terrorism.*~~

17 (4) *UNITED STATES PERSON.—The term “United*
 18 ~~*States person” means any United States citizen or*~~
 19 ~~*alien admitted for permanent residence in the United*~~
 20 ~~*States.*~~

21 **SEC. 3. REPORT ON STRATEGY TO COMBAT REPORTS ON**
 22 **COMBATING TERRORIST USE OF SOCIAL**
 23 **MEDIA.**

24 (a) ~~IN GENERAL~~ *OVERVIEW.*—Not later than 90 days
 25 after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall

1 transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a re-
 2 port on ~~United States strategy to combat~~ terrorists’ and
 3 terrorist organizations’ use of social media *and the efforts*
 4 *of the United States to combat such use.*

5 (b) *OVERVIEW ELEMENTS.*—The report required by
 6 subsection (a) shall include the following:

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

9 (2) An analysis of how terrorists and terrorist
 10 organizations are using social media, including
 11 trends.

12 (3) A summary of the Federal Government’s ef-
 13 forts to monitor, review, disrupt, and counter the
 14 use of social media by terrorists and terrorist orga-
 15 nizations, ~~an evaluation of the success of such ef-~~
 16 ~~forts, and recommendations for improvement.~~

17 ~~(4) An analysis of how the Federal Government~~
 18 ~~is using social media to counter terrorist propaganda~~
 19 ~~and radicalization domestically and abroad.~~

20 ~~(5)~~(4) An assessment of the value to law en-
 21 forcement officials and the intelligence community of
 22 reviewing and analyzing social media posts by terror-
 23 ists and terrorist organizations.

24 ~~(6)~~(5) An overview of available local, State, and
 25 Federal social media training programs to under-

stand and combat the use of social media by terrorists and terrorist organizations, the required qualifications for trainers in each program, the intended ~~students~~ *participants* of each program, as well as recommendations for improving or expanding existing training opportunities and training participation. *for the following:*

(i) Improving or expanding existing training opportunities and training participation.

(ii) Incorporating training on the civil rights and civil liberties of United States persons who are not engaged in terrorist activities.

(6) An assessment of the value to the Federal Government of collaborating with civil society to counter terrorist propaganda and radicalization domestically and abroad, as well as an overview of any legal issues that such collaboration may present.

(7) An assessment of any impact of the efforts of the Federal Government to combat terrorists' and terrorist organizations' use of social media may have upon the civil rights and civil liberties of United States persons who are not engaged in terrorist activities.

1 (c) *EVALUATION.*—Not later than 180 days after the
2 date of enactment of this Act, the President shall submit
3 to the appropriate congressional committees an evaluation
4 of the efforts of the United States to combat the use of social
5 media by terrorists and terrorist organizations.

6 (d) *EVALUATION ELEMENTS.*—The report required
7 under subsection (c) shall include—

8 (1) *an evaluation of the efforts of the Federal*
9 *Government to monitor, review, disrupt, and counter*
10 *the use of social media by terrorists and terrorist or-*
11 *ganizations, and recommendations for improvements*
12 *of such efforts;*

13 (2) *an analysis of how the Federal Government*
14 *is using social media to counter terrorist propaganda*
15 *and radicalization domestically and abroad, and how*
16 *such tactics fit within the broader efforts of the Fed-*
17 *eral Government to combat domestic terrorism and*
18 *international terrorism; and*

19 (3) *an assessment of any impact the efforts of the*
20 *Federal Government to combat terrorists' and ter-*
21 *rorist organizations' use of social media may have*
22 *upon the civil rights and civil liberties of United*
23 *States persons who are not engaged in terrorist ac-*
24 *tivities.*

1 ~~(e)~~(e) FORM.—The ~~report~~ required by subsection (a)
 2 ~~should~~ *reports required under subsections (a) and (c) shall*
 3 be submitted in unclassified form, and may include a clas-
 4 sified annex in accordance with the protection of intel-
 5 ligence sources and methods.

6 **SEC. 4. POLICY AND COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO**
 7 **COUNTER TERRORISTS’ AND TERRORIST OR-**
 8 **GANIZATIONS’ USE OF SOCIAL MEDIA.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
 10 date of enactment of this Act, the President shall transmit
 11 to the appropriate congressional committees a ~~report that~~
 12 ~~contains a~~ comprehensive strategy to counter terrorists’
 13 and terrorist organizations’ use of social media, as com-
 14 mitted to in the President’s 2011 “Strategic Implementa-
 15 tion Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Vio-
 16 lent Extremism in the United States”.

17 (b) FORM.—The ~~report~~ *strategy* required by sub-
 18 section (a) ~~should~~ *shall* be submitted in unclassified form,
 19 and may include a classified annex in accordance with the
 20 protection of intelligence sources and methods.

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

22 Nothing in this Act shall be construed as granting
 23 the President or any department or agency of the Federal
 24 Government authority to promulgate regulations or set
 25 standards relating to non-Federal entities.

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