

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 58

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

AN ACT

To require the Secretary of Homeland Security to submit a study on the circumstances which may impact the effectiveness and availability of first responders before, during, or after a terrorist threat or event, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “First Responder Identi-
3 fication of Emergency Needs in Disaster Situations” or
4 the “FRIENDS Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH MAY IMPACT FIRST RE-**
6 **SPONDERS DURING A TERRORIST EVENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
9 of the United States shall submit to the Committees on
10 Homeland Security and Transportation and Infrastruc-
11 ture of the House of Representatives and the Committee
12 on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the
13 Senate a report that describes select State and local pro-
14 grams and policies, as appropriate, related to the pre-
15 paredness and protection of first responders. The report
16 may include information on—

17 (1) the degree to which such programs and poli-
18 cies include consideration of the presence of a first
19 responder’s family in an area impacted by a terrorist
20 attack;

21 (2) the availability of personal protective equip-
22 ment for first responders;

23 (3) the availability of home Medkits for first re-
24 sponders and their families for biological incident re-
25 sponse; and

26 (4) other related factors.

1 (b) CONTEXT.—In preparing the report required
2 under subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the
3 United States may, as appropriate, provide information—

4 (1) in a format that delineates high risk urban
5 areas from rural communities; and

6 (2) on the degree to which the selected State
7 and local programs and policies included in such re-
8 port were developed or are being executed with fund-
9 ing from the Department of Homeland Security, in-
10 cluding grant funding from the State Homeland Se-
11 curity Grant Program or the Urban Area Security
12 Initiative under sections 2002 and 2003, respec-
13 tively, of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6
14 U.S.C. 603 and 604).

15 (c) HOMELAND SECURITY CONSIDERATION.—After
16 issuance of the report required under subsection (a), the
17 Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider such re-
18 port’s findings and assess its applicability for Federal first
19 responders.

Passed the House of Representatives January 31,
2017.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.