

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6770

To direct the Commander of the United States Cyber Command to submit to Congress a report regarding recommended actions in cyberspace to defend the United States against transnational organized crime networks linked to the Chinese Communist Party that operate digital scams.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Mr. VINDMAN (for himself and Mr. FINSTAD) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To direct the Commander of the United States Cyber Command to submit to Congress a report regarding recommended actions in cyberspace to defend the United States against transnational organized crime networks linked to the Chinese Communist Party that operate digital scams.

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 “Scam Defense Strategy
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. TRANSNATIONAL ORGANIZED CRIME NETWORKS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) According to estimates from the United
4 States Institutes of Peace, China-linked
5 transnational organized crime groups that operate
6 “fraud farms” in Southeast Asia steal nearly
7 \$43,800,000,000 annually through digital scams.

8 (2) Such scams increasingly affect Americans
9 and disproportionately target vulnerable populations
10 such as the elderly and socially isolated.

11 (3) According to the Federal Trade Commis-
12 sion, in 2024 alone—

13 (A) 246,783 scam text messages were re-
14 ported, resulting in \$469,000,000 in losses to
15 Americans;

16 (B) 371,664 scam emails were reported,
17 resulting in \$502,000,000 in losses to Ameri-
18 cans; and

19 (C) 284,651 scam phone calls were re-
20 ported, resulting in \$948,000,000 in losses to
21 Americans.

22 (4) Transnational organized crime groups main-
23 tain documented ties to the Chinese Communist
24 Party. Chinese officials and state-owned enterprises
25 have provided direct support for the construction
26 and operation of facilities linked to transnational or-

1 organized crime, raising serious concerns about a co-
2 ordinated campaign of foreign interference and sabo-
3 tage.

4 (5) The involvement of the Chinese Communist
5 Party in transnational organized crime networks
6 presents an urgent national security threat. These
7 networks funnel financial assets and sensitive per-
8 sonal information of United States citizens to a hos-
9 tile foreign power, undermining American economic
10 security and individual privacy.

11 (6) Such transnational organized crime net-
12 works have deeply imbedded themselves into South-
13 east Asian economies, exerting destabilizing influ-
14 ence across the region.

15 (7) Proceeds from scams operated by these
16 transnational crime networks are used to fund war-
17 lords and ongoing civil conflicts, compounding re-
18 gional instability.

19 (8) Transnational organized crime networks
20 have trafficked an estimated 300,000 individuals
21 into cyber scam operations across Southeast Asia.
22 Victims, including United States citizens, are forced
23 to work under conditions that the U.S.-China Eco-
24 nomic and Security Review Commission compares to
25 modern slavery. The United Nations has warned

1 that human trafficking tied to these scam centers
2 has reached the level of a humanitarian and human
3 rights crisis.

4 (9) The U.S.-China Economic and Security Re-
5 view has acknowledged credible reports linking scam
6 facilities in the Philippines to Chinese espionage ac-
7 tivity. These facilities are being constructed near air
8 bases strategically important to United States oper-
9 ations, including Clark Air Base and Basa Air Base,
10 a key site under the Enhanced Defense Cooperative
11 Agreement. Philippine intelligence has provided com-
12 pelling evidence that these compounds have been
13 used for surveillance and cyber intrusions.

14 (10) The Chinese government has used the
15 presence of Chinese transnational organized crime
16 networks in Southeast Asia to pressure regional gov-
17 ernments to allow a greater role for Chinese security
18 forces, which threatens national sovereignty and re-
19 gional stability.

20 (11) Transnational organized crime networks
21 endanger American defense priorities as well as de-
22 mocracy, good governance, and stability worldwide
23 by co-opting local elites, undermining law enforce-
24 ment, weakening state authority, and threatening

1 the strategic interests of the United States in build-
2 ing a free and open Indo-Pacific.

3 (12) An effective response by the United States
4 Government will require a coordinated, whole-of-gov-
5 ernment effort drawing on the competencies of Fed-
6 eral agencies in information collection, financial en-
7 forcement, diplomatic engagement, defense and in-
8 telligence preparedness, and law enforcement.

9 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, the Commander of the
11 United States Cyber Command shall submit to Congress
12 a report regarding recommended actions for the Secretary
13 of Defense to take in cyberspace to defend the United
14 States and United States citizens, assets, and interests
15 against transnational organized crime networks linked to
16 the Chinese Communist Party that operate digital scams.

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