

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the financing of domestic violent extremists and terrorists, including foreign terrorist-inspired domestic extremists, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. \_\_\_\_\_ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the financing of domestic violent extremists and terrorists, including foreign terrorist-inspired domestic extremists, 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 “Domestic Terrorism  
5 Financing Study Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Christopher Wray, the Director of the Fed-  
2           eral Bureau of Investigation (FBI), has stated in  
3           congressional hearings that domestic terrorism is a  
4           “persistent and evolving threat”, as seen by the open  
5           investigations that the Bureau has in all 50 States.

6           (2) As illustrated through reporting of the Anti-  
7           Defamation League, domestic extremists are often  
8           self-funded through a diverse set of funding avenues,  
9           including membership dues, merchandise, event fees,  
10          fraud, sales of personal goods, and donations or  
11          crowdfunding from likeminded benefactors.

12          (3) Unlike foreign terrorist organizations, there  
13          is less known about how domestic extremists and  
14          terrorists fund their radicalization, recruitment,  
15          training, and operations.

16          (4) There is also a lack of information on the  
17          involvement of international groups in providing  
18          funding, propaganda, and tactics, techniques, and  
19          procedures (TTPs) to domestic extremists, a signifi-  
20          cant issue, in part, because it helps to determine  
21          which statutory tools are available to government  
22          authorities and which regulatory obligations are re-  
23          quired of financial institutions.

24          (5) Of the known examples, currently, the Rus-  
25          sian Imperial Movement (RIM) and three of its lead-

1       ers have been designated by the U.S. Department of  
2       State as Specially Designated Global Terrorists  
3       (SDGTs). There was also a large bitcoin transfer  
4       from a French extremist to a number of domestic,  
5       extremist-owned wallets, just a month prior to the  
6       January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

7           (6) Per reporting by the Washington Institute  
8       for Near East Policy, in addition to being the recipi-  
9       ent of extremist resources, the United States is now  
10      perceived as the world’s leading exporter of white su-  
11      premacist ideology.

12          (7) More information on the funding of domes-  
13      tic terrorism and extremism is required to under-  
14      stand how financial data and analytical tools can be  
15      effectively used to confront this problem.

16          (8) Any assessment of the options for tracking  
17      domestic terrorist funding must also consider the  
18      implications for First Amendment rights.

19      **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY ON THE FINANCING OF DOMESTIC VIO-**  
20                                      **LENT EXTREMISTS AND TERRORISTS.**

21          (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United  
22      States shall conduct a study on the financing of domestic  
23      violent extremists and terrorists, including foreign ter-  
24      rorist-inspired domestic extremists, which should con-  
25      sider—

1           (1) what is known about the primary mecha-  
2           nisms that domestic violent extremists and terrorists  
3           use to finance their activities, including the extent to  
4           which they rely on online social media, crowdfunding  
5           platforms, virtual currencies, and foreign sources to  
6           finance their activities;

7           (2) what is known about any funding that do-  
8           mestic violent extremists and terrorists provide to  
9           foreign entities for the purposes of coordination,  
10          support, or otherwise furthering their activities;

11          (3) any data that U.S. agencies collect related  
12          to the financing of domestic violent extremists and  
13          terrorists, and how such data is used;

14          (4) the extent to which U.S. agencies coordinate  
15          and share information among themselves, with for-  
16          eign partner agencies, and with the private sector to  
17          identify the sources of funding for domestic violent  
18          extremists and terrorists;

19          (5) efforts of financial institutions to identify  
20          and report on suspicious financial activity related to  
21          the financing of domestic violent extremists and ter-  
22          rorists;

23          (6) any actions U.S. financial regulators have  
24          taken to address the risks to financial institutions of

1 the financing of domestic violent extremists and ter-  
2 rorists; and

3 (7) with respect to the considerations described  
4 under paragraphs (1) through (6), any civil rights  
5 and civil liberties protections currently included in  
6 law and challenges associated with any potential  
7 changes to the legal framework to address them.

8 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18  
9 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comp-  
10 troller General of the United States shall report to the  
11 Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of  
12 the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of  
13 the House of Representatives the results of the study re-  
14 quired under subsection (a).