

AMENDMENT TO H.R. 5300

OFFERED BY MR. ISSA OF CALIFORNIA

At the end of the bill, add the following:

1 TITLE VIII—U.S. INTERNATIONAL
2 MEDIA MODERNIZATION ACT

3 SEC. 801. SHORT TITLE.

4 This title may be cited as the “U.S. International
5 Media Modernization Act”.

6 SEC. 802. DEFINITIONS.

7 In this title—

8 (1) the term “appropriate congressional com-
9 mittees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of
10 the House of Representatives, the Committee on
11 Foreign Relations of the Senate, the Committee on
12 Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and
13 the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

14 (2) the term “grantee” means the Frontline
15 Media Fund, Middle East Broadcasting Networks,
16 Open Technology Fund, Radio Free Asia, and Radio
17 Free Europe/Radio Liberty, as well as any non-Fed-
18 eral entity that, as of the day before the date of the
19 enactment of this Act, receives Federal funding from
20 the United States Agency for Global Media.

1 **Subtitle A—Realignment of Inter-**
2 **national Broadcasting Re-**
3 **sources**

4 **SEC. 811. DISSOLUTION OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY**
5 **FOR GLOBAL MEDIA.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days subse-
7 quent to the date of enactment of this Act, the United
8 States Agency for Global Media shall cease all operations
9 and transfer any and all remaining assets, personnel, and
10 existing financial obligations as further provided in this
11 section.

12 (b) TRANSFER OF ASSETS AND PERSONNEL TO THE
13 DEPARTMENT.—Not later than 30 days after the date of
14 the enactment of this Act, the following entities that are
15 within the current United States Agency for Global Media
16 shall be transferred to the Department’s Office of Global
17 Media within the Bureau of Global Public Affairs:

18 (1) There is authorized to be a broadcasting en-
19 tity named Voice of America. There is authorized to
20 be a Chief Editor of Voice of America, who shall be
21 responsible for overseeing Voice of America, its per-
22 sonnel, and its operations. The Chief Editor shall re-
23 port directly to the Director of the Office of Global
24 Media in the Bureau of Global Public Affairs. The
25 Voice of America and all assets and personnel shall

1 be under the control of the Office of Global Media
2 within the Bureau of Global Public Affairs on the
3 date of enactment of this Act.

4 (2) There is authorized to be a broadcasting en-
5 tity named Office of Cuba Broadcasting. There is
6 authorized to be a Director of the Office of Cuba
7 Broadcasting, who shall oversee the Office of Cuba
8 Broadcasting, its personnel, and its operations. The
9 Chief Editor shall report directly to the Director of
10 the Office of Global Media in the Bureau of Global
11 Public Affairs. The Office of Cuba Broadcasting and
12 all assets and personnel under the control of the Of-
13 fice of Cuba Broadcasting on the date of enactment
14 of this Act. All transmission, broadcasting, and re-
15 lated facilities and equipment under the control of
16 the United States Agency for Global Media on the
17 date of enactment of this Act.

18 (c) TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL-RELATED LITIGATION
19 TO THE OFFICE OF PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
21 the date of the enactment of this Act, the United
22 States Agency for Global Media shall transfer all
23 personnel-related case files and litigation responsibil-
24 ities in which the United States Agency for Global

1 Media is a defendant to the Office of Personnel
2 Management.

3 (2) CESSATION OF RELATIONSHIP WITH GRANT-
4 EES.—Not later than 30 days after the date of en-
5 actment of this Act, the United States Agency for
6 Global Media shall cease to disburse any and all
7 Federal funding to each grantee.

8 (d) EXCEPTIONS TO ASSET AND PERSONNEL TRANS-
9 FER REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding the requirements
10 of this section, the United States Agency for Global
11 Media, prior to its cessation of operations in accordance
12 with this title, shall have the authority to—

13 (1) transfer any personnel to any other Federal
14 agency or agencies; and

15 (2) transfer any assets to the General Services
16 Administration for sale or auction in accordance
17 with the General Services Administration's proce-
18 dures for such sales or auctions, except such ability
19 to transfer such assets shall apply only to assets
20 within the United States Agency for Global Media's
21 headquarters and other administrative offices and
22 shall not apply to any shortwave, medium wave, or
23 other stand-alone transmissions or broadcasting fa-
24 cilities.

1 (e) INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY EXEMPTION FOR
2 PUBLIC DIPLOMACY.—Notwithstanding title 17 of the
3 United States Code, the Voice of America and the Office
4 of Cuba Broadcasting shall have the ability to rebroadcast
5 audio and video content that was originally produced by
6 copyright holders without liability for copyright infringe-
7 ment claims, with the understanding that such rebroad-
8 cast of content without liability is in the national interest,
9 is essential for public diplomacy, and is done without any
10 purpose of either direct or indirect commercial advantage
11 for the Federal government.

12 (f) PROHIBITION OF TRANSFER OF FACILITIES TO
13 FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—Notwithstanding any provi-
14 sion of any law or any rule or regulation of the United
15 States, the United States Government shall neither sell
16 nor transfer any shortwave, medium wave, or other stand-
17 alone transmissions or broadcasting facilities to any for-
18 eign government, entity, or individual, but, in the event
19 such facilities are deemed obsolete, shall dismantle such
20 facilities.

21 (g) PROHIBITION OF SECURITY CLEARANCES.—No
22 Federal personnel who serve in the Voice of America or
23 the Office of Cuba Broadcasting in any capacity and re-
24 ceive income paid by funding appropriated by Congress,

1 including contractors and subcontractors, shall receive, or
2 be required to obtain, a security clearance.

3 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR DISSOLUTION
4 OF THE UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR GLOBAL MEDIA.—
5 There is authorized to be appropriated \$160,000,000 for
6 the dissolution of the United States Agency for Global
7 Media for fiscal years 2026 through 2027 or until the date
8 on which the United States Agency for Global Media is
9 fully dissolved, whichever date occurs first.

10 (i) LIMITATIONS ON JUDICIAL REVIEW.—No Federal
11 court established under the authority of Article III of the
12 United States Constitution or other Federal court estab-
13 lished under other Federal authority shall have jurisdic-
14 tion to enjoin, nullify, or otherwise alter the implementa-
15 tion of any provision of this section.

16 **Subtitle B—Realignment of** 17 **Federally Funded Media**

18 **SEC. 821. PROHIBITION ON RESTRICTIONS ON EDITORIAL** 19 **DISCRETION.**

20 Subsequent to the transfer of assets and personnel
21 to the Department's Bureau of Global Public Affairs in
22 accordance with subtitle A, the Secretary shall have the
23 authority to exercise editorial discretion regarding any and
24 all content produced by the Voice of America and the Of-
25 fice of Cuba Broadcasting.

1 **SEC. 822. USE OF CONTRACTS FOR NEWS AND MEDIA ENTI-**
2 **TIES.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Voice of America and the Of-
4 fice of Cuba Broadcasting shall have the authority to en-
5 gage in competitive or non-competitive contracts or agree-
6 ments with entities or individuals engaged in the produc-
7 tion or distribution of news and information for the pur-
8 pose of redistribution of such content, except that such
9 contracts or agreements shall only be funded in single-
10 month increments and shall be terminatable at the unilat-
11 eral discretion of the Secretary.

12 (b) FOREIGN ENTITIES AND INDIVIDUALS ELIGI-
13 BLE.—Foreign entities and individual foreign nationals
14 shall be eligible for competitive and non-competitive con-
15 tracts or agreements in accordance with this section, pro-
16 vided that the Secretary, subsequent to consultation with
17 the Director of National Security, can affirmatively certify
18 that such entities and nationals both meet requisite fitness
19 determinations and do not pose a national security risk
20 to the United States or its citizens.

21 (c) PROHIBITION ON SECURITY CLEARANCES.—No
22 individuals who are employed by any of the entities, are
23 themselves individuals, or are contractors or subcontract-
24 ors of such entities or individuals, described in this sec-
25 tion shall receive, or be required to obtain, a security clear-

1 ance pursuant to any contract or agreement that is au-
2 thorized pursuant to this section.

3 (d) **LENGTH OF CONTRACT.**— Any contract entered
4 into by and with the Voice of American and the Office
5 of Cuba Broadcasting for content creation, dissemination,
6 and or related intent shall not exceed two years with the
7 ability for renewal following an assessment by the Office
8 of Global Public Affairs.

9 **SEC. 823. MONITORING AND EVALUATION REQUIREMENTS**
10 **FOR CONTRACT AGREEMENTS.**

11 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Each contract or agreement con-
12 cluded under the authority of this title shall include clearly
13 defined metrics of success and a monitoring and evalua-
14 tion framework to assess the effectiveness of United
15 States-funded media programs in advancing the policies
16 of the United States and influencing foreign audiences
17 over time.

18 (b) **CONSULTATION REQUIREMENT.**—The Office of
19 Opinion Research within the Bureau of Intelligence and
20 Research of the Department shall be consulted to inform
21 the Bureau of Global Public Affairs in the development
22 of the metric of success provision within the relevant con-
23 tracts and to determine the appropriate sources and meth-
24 odologies for evaluating program effectiveness.

1 (c) PUBLIC OPINION SURVEYS.—Public opinion sur-
2 veys shall be conducted in addition to or in conjunction
3 with current Intelligence and Research surveys to monitor
4 and evaluate the impact of United States media efforts
5 on foreign audiences when determined to be the most ap-
6 propriate means to evaluate program effectiveness.

7 (d) ADDITIONAL SOURCES AND METHODS.—Nothing
8 in this section shall preclude the use of additional sources,
9 methodologies, or analytic tools to inform media strategies
10 and assess the shifting attitudes of foreign audiences due
11 to United States-funded media activities.

12 **SEC. 824. PROHIBITION ON HIRING OF GRANTEE PER-**
13 **SONNEL.**

14 The Voice of America and the Office of Cuba Broad-
15 casting shall be prohibited from employing any foreign na-
16 tionals who were hired by a grantee from 2010 to the date
17 of enactment of this Act, until 10 years subsequent to the
18 date of enactment of this Act.

19 **SEC. 825. PROHIBITION ON HIRING OF FOREIGN NATION-**
20 **ALS.**

21 The Voice of America and the Office of Cuba Broad-
22 casting shall be prohibited from directly employing foreign
23 nationals, including foreign nationals who are otherwise
24 eligible for lawful entry into the United States under any
25 immigrant or nonimmigrant visa category.

1 **SEC. 826. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
3 date of the enactment of this Act, the Department’s Bu-
4 reau of Global Public Affairs shall submit a report to the
5 appropriate congressional committees that provides an up-
6 date and the status regarding the Bureau’s progress on
7 the absorption and operationalization of the Voice of
8 America and the Office of Cuba Broadcasting.

9 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than July 1 of each
10 year subsequent to the submission of the report required
11 by subsection (a), the Department’s Bureau of Global
12 Public Affairs shall submit annually for three years a re-
13 port to the appropriate congressional committees that pro-
14 vides updates explaining—

15 (1) implementation of new programs or serv-
16 ices, expansion of programs and services, or reduc-
17 tion of programs and services;

18 (2) performance metrics used to assess the ef-
19 fectiveness of its programs and services in advancing
20 the policy interests of the United States and posi-
21 tively influencing foreign audiences’ views over time;
22 and

23 (3) all contracts or agreements with private en-
24 tities or individuals, whether such contracts or
25 agreements are issued on a competitive or non-com-
26 petitive basis, with such updates including the iden-

1 tities of such private entities and individuals, the du-
2 ration of such contracts or agreements, and the
3 costs of such contracts or agreements.

4 **Subtitle C—Conforming**
5 **Amendments**

6 **SEC. 831. REPEAL OF UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL**
7 **BROADCASTING ACT OF 1994.**

8 The United States International Broadcasting Act of
9 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6201 et seq.; title III of Public Law 103–
10 236) is hereby repealed.

11 **SEC. 832. REPEAL OF SECTION 1288 OF THE NATIONAL DE-**
12 **FENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL**
13 **YEAR 2017.**

14 Section 1288 of the National Defense Authorization
15 Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114–328) is hereby
16 repealed.

