

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2899
OFFERED BY MR. McCAUL OF TEXAS**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Countering Violent Ex-
3 tremism Act of 2015” or the “CVE Act”.

**4 SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE OFFICE FOR COUNTERING
5 VIOLENT EXTREMISM OF THE DEPARTMENT
6 OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title I of the Homeland Security
8 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101 et seq.) is amended by adding
9 at the end the following new section:

10 “SEC. 104. OFFICE FOR COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM.

11 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is in the Department
12 an Office for Countering Violent Extremism. The head of
13 the Office shall be the Assistant Secretary for Countering
14 Violent Extremism, who shall be appointed by the Sec-
15 retary. The Secretary shall also appoint a career Deputy
16 Assistant Secretary for Countering Violent Extremism.

17 “(b) ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL.—The Secretary
18 shall assign or hire, as appropriate, permanent staff to

1 the Office for Countering Violent Extremism. In carrying
2 out this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the maximum
3 extent practicable, seek to assign to or hire for the Office
4 an individual who has a demonstrated background in tech-
5 nical matters, on and offline media, communications, or
6 marketing.

7 “(c) SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall appoint within
8 each appropriate component and office of the Department,
9 including at a minimum, U.S. Customs and Border Pro-
10 tection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,
11 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the
12 Office of Privacy, the National Protection and Programs
13 Directorate, the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties,
14 the Secret Service, and the Science and Technology Direc-
15 torate, an individual to serve as liaison to the Office for
16 Countering Violent Extremism.

17 “(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant Secretary
18 for Countering Violent Extremism shall be responsible for
19 the following:

20 “(1) Coordinating the Department’s activities
21 to counter violent extremism across all the compo-
22 nents and offices of the Department that conduct
23 strategic and supportive activities to counter violent
24 extremism. Such activities shall include the fol-
25 lowing:

1 “(A) Identifying risk factors that con-
2 tribute to violent extremism in communities in
3 the United States and potential remedies for
4 use by Government and non-government institu-
5 tions.

6 “(B) Identifying populations targeted by
7 violent extremist propaganda, messaging, or re-
8 cruitment.

9 “(C) Managing the outreach and engage-
10 ment activities of the Department directed to-
11 ward communities at risk for radicalization and
12 recruitment for violent extremist activities.

13 “(D) Ensuring relevant information, em-
14 pirically-valid research, and products inform ac-
15 tivities to counter violent extremism.

16 “(E) Developing and maintaining a De-
17 partment-wide strategy guiding policies and
18 programs to counter violent extremism. Such
19 strategy shall, at a minimum, address each of
20 the following:

21 “(i) The Department’s counter-mes-
22 saging program pursuant to paragraph (2),
23 including a plan to leverage new and exist-
24 ing Internet, digital, and other technologies
25 and social media platforms to counter vio-

1 lent extremism, as well as the best prac-
2 tices and lessons learned of other Federal,
3 State, local, tribal, territorial, nongovern-
4 mental, and foreign partners engaged in
5 similar counter-messaging activities.

6 “(ii) The Department’s countering
7 violent extremism-related engagement and
8 outreach activities.

9 “(iii) The use of cooperative agree-
10 ments with State, local, tribal, territorial,
11 and other Federal departments and agen-
12 cies responsible for activities relating to
13 countering violent extremism.

14 “(iv) Ensuring all activities related to
15 countering violent extremism fully respect
16 the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties
17 of all Americans.

18 “(v) The development of qualitative
19 and quantitative outcome-based metrics to
20 evaluate the Department’s programs and
21 policies to counter violent extremism.

22 “(F) Identifying and recommending new
23 research and analysis requirements in consulta-
24 tion with the Under Secretary for Science and
25 Technology and the Under Secretary for Intel-

1 ligence and Analysis and ensure the dissemina-
2 tion of information and methods to Federal,
3 State, local, tribal, and territorial countering
4 violent extremism practitioners, officials, law
5 enforcement, and non-governmental partners to
6 utilize such research and analysis.

7 “(G) Assessing the methods used by vio-
8 lent extremists to disseminate propaganda and
9 messaging to communities at risk for
10 radicalization and recruitment.

11 “(2) Establishing a counter-messaging program
12 to craft strategic counter-messages to the propa-
13 ganda and messaging referred to in subparagraph
14 (G) of paragraph (1) which shall—

15 “(A) explore ways to utilize relevant Inter-
16 net and other technologies and social media
17 platforms; and

18 “(B) maximize other resources available to
19 the Department, including utilizing hiring au-
20 thorities available under law.

21 “(3) Serving as the primary representative of
22 the Department in coordinating countering violent
23 extremism activities with other Federal departments
24 and agencies and non-governmental organizations.

1 “(4) Serving as the primary Department-level
2 representative in coordinating with the Department
3 of State on international countering violent extre-
4 mism issues.

5 “(5) In coordination with the Administrator of
6 the Federal Emergency Management Agency and
7 the Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties of the
8 Department, providing guidance regarding the use of
9 grants made to State, local, and tribal governments
10 under sections 2003 and 2004 under the allowable
11 uses guidelines related to countering violent extre-
12 mism.

13 “(e) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The As-
14 sistant Secretary for Countering Violent Extremism shall
15 enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Ad-
16 ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-
17 cy outlining the roles of the Assistant Secretary and the
18 Administrator with respect to the administration of grants
19 under sections 2003 and 2004 related to countering vio-
20 lent extremism.

21 “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Assistant Secretary for
22 Countering Violent Extremism shall submit to Congress
23 an annual report for each of the next five fiscal years (be-
24 ginning in the fiscal year that begins after the date of the
25 enactment of this section) on the Office for Countering

1 Violent Extremism. Each such report shall include the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(1) A description of the status of the pro-
4 grams and policies of the Department for countering
5 violent extremism in the United States, including the
6 budget of the Department for countering violent ex-
7 tremism and the number of full-time employees dedi-
8 cated to countering violent extremism programs, as
9 well as the number of part-time employees sup-
10 porting countering violent extremism programs.
11 Each such budget shall include an accounting of all
12 funding amounts for all departmental programs, ini-
13 tiatives, and personnel related to countering violent
14 extremism.

15 “(2) A description of the activities of the Office
16 to cooperate with and provide assistance to other de-
17 partments and agencies.

18 “(3) The qualitative and quantitative outcome-
19 based metrics under clause (v) of subsection
20 (d)(1)(E) used for evaluating the success of such
21 programs and policies and the steps taken to evalu-
22 ate the success of such programs and policies.

23 “(4) A detailed summary of the organizations
24 with which the Department conducted outreach to
25 discuss countering violent extremism, an accounting

1 of grants awarded by the Department to counter vio-
2 lent extremism, and an accounting of all training
3 specifically aimed at countering violent extremism
4 sponsored by the Department.

5 “(5) Details of the optimal level of personnel
6 and funding for the Office.

7 “(6) An analysis of how the Department’s ac-
8 tivities to counter violent extremism correspond and
9 adapt to the threat environment.

10 “(7) A summary of how civil rights and civil
11 liberties are protected in the Department’s activities
12 to counter violent extremism.

13 “(g) VIOLENT EXTREMISM DEFINED.—In this sec-
14 tion, the term ‘violent extremism’ means ideologically mo-
15 tivated terrorist activities.

16 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING.—Out of funds
17 made available to the Office of the Secretary, \$10,000,000
18 is authorized to be used for the Office for Countering Vio-
19 lent Extremism for each of fiscal years 2016 through
20 2020.”.

21 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents
22 in section 1(b) of such Act is amended by inserting after
23 the item relating to section 103 the following new item:

“Sec. 104. Office for Countering Violent Extremism.”.

