

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7439

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize strengthening of State and local law enforcement capabilities to combat transnational repression and related terrorism threats, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 23, 2024

Mr. MAGAZINER (for himself, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, Mr. PFLUGER, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to prioritize strengthening of State and local law enforcement capabilities to combat transnational repression and related terrorism threats, 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 “Strengthening State
3 and Local Efforts to Combat Transnational Repression
4 Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. COMBATING TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the
7 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.)
8 is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

9 **“SEC. 437. STRENGTHENING STATE AND LOCAL LAW EN-**
10 **FORCEMENT EFFORTS TO COMBAT**
11 **TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION AND RELATED**
12 **TERRORISM THREATS.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
14 with public and private sector stakeholders, shall in a
15 manner consistent with the protection of privacy rights,
16 civil rights, and civil liberties, develop, through the Fed-
17 eral Law Enforcement Training Centers, a training pro-
18 gram to enhance the capabilities of State, local, Tribal,
19 and territorial law enforcement personnel, including per-
20 sonnel of the National Network of Fusion Centers, to com-
21 bat transnational repression and related terrorism threats.

22 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The training provided pursu-
23 ant to subsection (a) shall relate to the following:

24 “(1) Identifying instances of transnational re-
25 pression and related terrorism threats.

1 “(2) Types of information that should be col-
2 lected and recorded in information technology sys-
3 tems to help identify suspected perpetrators of
4 transnational repression and related terrorism
5 threats.

6 “(3) Identifying suspected targets or victims of
7 transnational repression and related terrorism
8 threats.

9 “(4) Personal safety best practices for individ-
10 uals and communities that may be targets or are vic-
11 tims of transnational repression and related ter-
12 rorism threats to prevent and mitigate transnational
13 repression and related terrorism threats and ensure
14 that such targets and victims are afforded prompt
15 information about and access to victim support re-
16 sources, including such resources offered by the Cy-
17 bersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency and
18 the Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, to ad-
19 dress their immediate and long-term needs.

20 “(c) COMMUNITY AWARENESS BRIEFINGS.—The Of-
21 ficer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties shall engage with
22 State, local, Tribal, and territorial law enforcement per-
23 sonnel, including personnel of the National Network of
24 Fusion Centers, and individuals and communities that
25 may be targets or are victims of transnational repression

1 and related terrorism threats, including by informing such
2 individuals and communities about how to identify
3 transnational repression and related terrorism threats and
4 protect against transnational repression and related ter-
5 rorism threats.

6 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) PERSONAL SAFETY BEST PRACTICES.—
8 The term ‘personal safety best practices’ means
9 measures for enhancing individuals’ and commu-
10 nities’ physical security, situational awareness, and
11 online security.

12 “(2) TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION.—The term
13 ‘transnational repression’ means actions of a foreign
14 government, or an individual or entity working on
15 behalf or at the direction of a foreign government,
16 involving the transgression of national borders
17 through physical, digital, or analog means to intimi-
18 date, silence, coerce, harass, or harm individuals or
19 communities in order to prevent their exercise of
20 freedom of speech, expression, religion, or assem-
21 bly.”.

22 (b) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—The Secretary
23 of Homeland Security shall coordinate with the Under
24 Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department
25 of Homeland Security to—

1 (1) carry out research and development of a
2 technology to enhance participation rates in training
3 offered to other State, local, Tribal, and territorial
4 law enforcement personnel, including personnel of
5 the National Network of Fusion Centers, for the
6 purpose of enhancing domestic preparedness for and
7 collective response to transnational repression and
8 related terrorism threats and other homeland secu-
9 rity threats; and

10 (2) share information relating to researching
11 and developing methods for identifying instances,
12 suspected targets, and victims of transnational re-
13 pression and related terrorism threats, and methods
14 for collecting and recording information to help iden-
15 tify suspected perpetrators of transnational repres-
16 sion and related terrorism threats.

17 (c) **COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.**—Not later
18 than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act,
19 the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit
20 to Congress a report on the implementation of section 437
21 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by sub-
22 section (a).

23 (d) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents
24 in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is

- 1 amended by inserting after the item relating to section
- 2 436 the following new item:

“Sec. 437. Strengthening State and local law enforcement efforts to combat transnational repression and related terrorism threats.”.

