

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2899

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize the Office for  
Countering Violent Extremism.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 25, 2015

Mr. McCAUL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Homeland Security

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## A BILL

To amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to authorize  
the Office for Countering Violent Extremism.

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 “Countering Violent Ex-  
5 tremism Act of 2015” or the “CVE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE OFFICE FOR COUNTERING**  
2 **VIOLENT EXTREMISM OF THE DEPARTMENT**  
3 **OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

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

7 **“SEC. 104. OFFICE FOR COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM.**

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

14 “(b) ASSIGNMENT OF PERSONNEL.—The Secretary  
15 shall assign or hire, as appropriate, permanent staff to  
16 the Office for Countering Violent Extremism. In carrying  
17 out this subsection, the Secretary shall, to the maximum  
18 extent practicable, seek to assign to or hire for the Office  
19 an individual who has a demonstrated background in tech-  
20 nical matters, on and offline media, or marketing.

21 “(c) SUPPORT.—The Secretary shall appoint within  
22 each appropriate component and office of the Department,  
23 including at a minimum, U.S. Customs and Border Pro-  
24 tection, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement,  
25 United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, the  
26 Office of Privacy, the National Protection and Programs

1 Directorate, the Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties,  
2 and the Science and Technology Directorate, an individual  
3 to serve as liaison to the Office for Countering Violent Ex-  
4 tremism.

5 “(d) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Assistant Secretary  
6 for Countering Violent Extremism shall be responsible for  
7 the following:

8 “(1) Coordinating the Department’s efforts to  
9 counter violent extremism across all the components  
10 and offices of the Department that conduct strategic  
11 and supportive efforts to counter violent extremism.  
12 Such efforts shall include the following:

13 “(A) Identifying risk factors that con-  
14 tribute to violent extremism in communities in  
15 the United States and potential remedies for  
16 Government and non-government institutions.

17 “(B) Identifying populations targeted by  
18 violent extremist propaganda, messaging, or re-  
19 cruitment.

20 “(C) Managing the outreach and engage-  
21 ment efforts of the Department directed toward  
22 communities at risk for radicalization and re-  
23 cruitment for violent extremist activities.

1           “(D) Ensuring relevant information, re-  
2 search, and products inform efforts to counter  
3 violent extremism.

4           “(E) Developing and maintaining a De-  
5 partment-wide strategy guiding policies and  
6 programs to counter violent extremism. Such  
7 strategy shall, at a minimum, address each of  
8 the following:

9                   “(i) The Department’s counter-mes-  
10 saging program pursuant to paragraph (2),  
11 including a plan to leverage new and exist-  
12 ing Internet and other technologies and so-  
13 cial media platforms to counter violent ex-  
14 tremism, as well as the best practices and  
15 lessons learned of other Federal, State,  
16 local, tribal, territorial, and foreign part-  
17 ners engaged in similar counter-messaging  
18 efforts.

19                   “(ii) The Department’s countering  
20 violent extremism-related engagement ef-  
21 forts.

22                   “(iii) The use of cooperative agree-  
23 ments with State, local, tribal, territorial,  
24 and other Federal departments and agen-

1           cies responsible for efforts relating to  
2           countering violent extremism.

3           “(iv) Ensuring all activities related to  
4           countering violent extremism fully respect  
5           the privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties  
6           of all Americans.

7           “(F) Identifying and recommending new  
8           research and analysis requirements in coordina-  
9           tion with the Under Secretary for Science and  
10          Technology and the Under Secretary for Intel-  
11          ligence and Analysis and ensure the dissemina-  
12          tion of information and methods for Federal,  
13          State, local, tribal, and territorial countering  
14          violent extremism practitioners, officials, law  
15          enforcement, and non-governmental partners to  
16          utilize such research and analysis.

17          “(G) Assessing the methods used by vio-  
18          lent extremists to disseminate propaganda and  
19          messaging to communities at risk for  
20          radicalization and recruitment.

21          “(2) Establishing a counter-messaging program  
22          to craft strategic counter-messages to the propa-  
23          ganda and messaging referred to in subparagraph  
24          (G) of paragraph (1) which shall—

1           “(A) explore ways to utilize relevant Inter-  
2           net and other technologies and social media  
3           platforms; and

4           “(B) maximize other resources available to  
5           the Department.

6           “(3) Serving as the primary representative of  
7           the Department in coordinating countering violent  
8           extremism efforts with other Federal departments  
9           and agencies and non-governmental organizations.

10          “(4) Serving as the primary Department-level  
11          representative in coordinating with the Department  
12          of State on international countering violent extre-  
13          mism issues.

14          “(5) In coordination with the Administrator of  
15          the Federal Emergency Management Agency, pro-  
16          viding guidance regarding the use of grants made to  
17          State, local, and tribal governments under sections  
18          2003 and 2004 under the allowable uses guidelines  
19          related to countering violent extremism.

20          “(e) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The As-  
21          sistant Secretary for Countering Violent Extremism shall  
22          enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Ad-  
23          ministrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agen-  
24          cy outlining the roles of the Assistant Secretary and the  
25          Administrator with respect to the administration of grants

1 under sections 2003 and 2004 related to countering vio-  
2 lent extremism.

3 “(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Assistant Secretary for  
4 Countering Violent Extremism shall submit to Congress  
5 an annual report for each of the next five fiscal years (be-  
6 ginning in the fiscal year that begins after the date of the  
7 enactment of this section) on the Office for Countering  
8 Violent Extremism. Each such report shall include the fol-  
9 lowing:

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

22 “(2) A description of the efforts of the Office  
23 to cooperate with and provide assistance to other de-  
24 partments and agencies.

1           “(3) Qualitative and quantitative metrics for  
2           evaluating the success of such programs and policies  
3           and the steps taken to evaluate the success of such  
4           programs and policies.

5           “(4) A detailed summary of the organizations  
6           with which the Department conducted outreach to  
7           discuss countering violent extremism, an accounting  
8           of grants awarded by the Department to counter vio-  
9           lent extremism, and an accounting of all training  
10          specifically aimed at countering violent extremism  
11          sponsored by the Department.

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

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

17          “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING.—Out of funds  
18          made available to the Office of the Secretary, \$10,000,000  
19          is authorized for the Office for Countering Violent Extre-  
20          mism for each of fiscal years 2016 through 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.”.

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