

Calendar No. 655

114TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2418

[Report No. 114–365]

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish university labs for student-developed technology-based solutions for countering on-line recruitment of violent extremists.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 17, 2015

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. PETERS, and Mr. UDALL) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

OCTOBER 27, 2016

Reported under authority of the order of the Senate of September 29, 2016,
by Mr. JOHNSON, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italie*]

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish university labs for student-developed technology-based solutions for countering online recruitment of violent extremists.

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 “Countering Online Re-
3 cruitment of Violent Extremists Act of 2015”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

5 In this Act:

6 (1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-**
7 **TEES.**—The term “appropriate Congressional com-
8 mittees” means the Committee on Homeland Secu-
9 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the
10 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of
11 Representatives.

12 (2) **CENTER FOR HOMELAND SECURITY.**—The
13 term “center for homeland security” means a uni-
14 versity-based center the Secretary of Homeland Se-
15 curity designates under section 308(b)(2) of the
16 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
17 188(b)(2)).

18 (3) **COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM.**—The
19 terms “countering violent extremism” and “CVE”—

20 (A) mean proactive and relevant actions to
21 counter efforts by extremists to radicalize, re-
22 cruit, and mobilize followers to violence and to
23 address the conditions that allow for violent ex-
24 tremist recruitment and radicalization; and

1 (B) do not include disruptive actions that
2 focus on stopping acts of terrorism by individ-
3 uals who have already subscribed to violence.

4 (4) CVE LAB.—The term “CVE Lab” means a
5 physical space and academic program at a center for
6 homeland security designated for participating stu-
7 dents to develop and test technology-based CVE so-
8 lutions.

9 (5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
10 term “institution of higher education” has the
11 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
12 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

13 (6) PARTICIPATING STUDENT.—The term “par-
14 ticipating student” means a student participating in
15 a CVE Lab.

16 (7) TECHNOLOGY-BASED CVE SOLUTION.—The
17 term “technology-based CVE solution” means an in-
18 strument developed by a participating student under
19 section 5(b)(1) that—

20 (A) appeals to young consumers of online
21 and social media;

22 (B) counters online recruitment of violent
23 extremists or builds resilience against online ex-
24 tremist recruitment amongst participating stu-
25 dents’ peers; and

1 (C) operates on a technological platform or
2 is technological in nature, including social
3 media campaigns and mobile software applica-
4 tions.

5 (8) VIOLENT EXTREMISM.—The term “violent
6 extremism” means ideologically motivated inter-
7 national terrorism or domestic terrorism, as those
8 terms are defined in section 2331 of title 18, United
9 States Code.

10 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

11 Congress finds and declares the following:

12 (1) The ability to rapidly disseminate graphic
13 images and ideas to shape the public narrative
14 makes social media a strategic messaging and re-
15 cruitment mechanism for terrorists, insurgent
16 groups, and governments engaged in conflict.

17 (2) The United States Government and its
18 partners around the world have not been effective in
19 using social media to produce alternative narratives
20 to stem terrorist recruitment through social media.

21 (3) Due to the strategic role the Internet plays
22 in recruitment to terrorist violence, online counter-
23 narratives promoted by non-governmental peers are
24 most likely to directly reach and resonate with indi-

1 individuals who aspire to become foreign fighters or
 2 carry out terrorist attacks:

3 (4) There exists youth-led demand for action-
 4 oriented solutions to countering violent extremism,
 5 as evidenced by the Youth Action Agenda to Prevent
 6 Violent Extremism and Promote Peace, which was
 7 produced by young activists at the Global Youth
 8 Summit Against Violent Extremism on the margins
 9 of the 70th United Nations General Assembly meet-
 10 ing in New York, on September 28, 2015.

11 (5) The establishment of university-based labs
 12 for students to develop technology-based solutions
 13 will enable more innovative and effective alternative
 14 narratives to counter violent extremist recruitment
 15 online.

16 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF CVE LABS.**

17 In carrying out clause (xv) of section 308(b)(2)(B)
 18 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
 19 188(b)(2)(B)), as added by section 7, the Secretary of
 20 Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary
 21 for Science and Technology and in coordination with the
 22 office within the Department of Homeland Security re-
 23 sponsible for coordinating the CVE efforts of the Depart-
 24 ment of Homeland Security, may—

25 (1) establish 1 or more CVE Labs; and

1 (2) reprioritize grants to centers for homeland
2 security to fund each CVE Lab.

3 **SEC. 5. FUNCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF CVE LABS.**

4 (a) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The head of an institution of
5 higher education at which a CVE Lab is established shall
6 ensure that the faculty of the CVE Lab—

7 (1) create a curriculum for participating stu-
8 dents to develop and test technology-based CVE so-
9 lutions that—

10 (A) may be drawn from pre-existing cur-
11 ricula or courses at an institution of higher
12 education;

13 (B) incorporates a CVE orientation pro-
14 gram for students participating in the Lab that
15 is informed by cross-cultural communication
16 issues experienced by CVE practitioners;

17 (C) incorporates technology-based business
18 development curricula; and

19 (D) requires participating students develop
20 a final business plan describing how the tech-
21 nology-based CVE solution would be scaled up
22 for investment and possible deployment by pri-
23 vate sector entities, philanthropic organizations,
24 or Federal, State, local, or tribal agencies;

1 (2) invite Federal Government officials to par-
2 ticipate in the orientation required by paragraph
3 (1)(B);

4 (3) provide each participating student a CVE
5 safety briefing by Federal Government officials dur-
6 ing the program orientation that outlines pre-
7 cautions participating students can take to protect
8 themselves from becoming a target of terrorists; and

9 (4) supervise any deployment of a technology-
10 based CVE solution by a participating student.

11 (b) **ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF CVE LABS.**—The
12 head of an institution of higher education at which a CVE
13 Lab is established shall ensure that the faculty of the CVE
14 Lab, in coordination with the Department of Homeland
15 Security and other appropriate entities including each
16 CVE Lab—

17 (1) develop a framework for participation and
18 support of other programs that encourage students
19 to develop peer-to-peer solutions for CVE;

20 (2) develop a common inventory of research, in
21 conjunction with other university-based centers for
22 homeland security that establish CVE Labs, on core
23 CVE issues to inform CVE Lab curricula in subse-
24 quent years;

1 (3) analyze social networks to identify individ-
2 uals on social media who are susceptible to recruit-
3 ment to violent extremism and at whom technology-
4 based CVE solutions can be directed, and indicators
5 of susceptibility recruitment to violent extremism;
6 and

7 (4) identify experts in CVE who can apply the
8 technology-based CVE solutions to target individuals
9 who are susceptible to recruitment to violent extre-
10 mism.

11 (c) ADMINISTRATION OF CVE LAB.—The head of an
12 institution of higher education at which a CVE Lab is es-
13 tablished—

14 (1) may determine the department and faculty
15 of the institution of higher education that will be re-
16 sponsible for administering the CVE Lab and have
17 final approval of who will be participating students
18 at the CVE Lab; and

19 (2) shall ensure that the faculty administering
20 the CVE Lab, additional CVE Lab instructors and
21 advisors, and participating students represent an
22 interdisciplinary cross-section of the institution of
23 higher education, including disciplines not tradition-
24 ally associated with counterterrorism.

1 **SEC. 6. ASSESSMENT AND REPORT.**

2 (a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date
3 on which a CVE Lab is first established, the head of the
4 institution of higher education at which the CVE Lab is
5 established shall submit to the Secretary of Homeland Se-
6 curity and the appropriate congressional committees a re-
7 port regarding the impact of the CVE Lab.

8 (b) **ASSESSMENT.**—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
9 rity, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and
10 Technology and in coordination with the office within the
11 Department of Homeland Security responsible for coordi-
12 nating the CVE efforts of the Department of Homeland
13 Security, shall—

14 (1) commission an independent third-party as-
15 sessment of the impact of each CVE Lab; and

16 (2) not later than 180 days after the date on
17 which the assessment required under paragraph (1)
18 is completed, provide the assessment to the appro-
19 priate Congressional committees.

20 **SEC. 7. FUNCTIONS OF CENTERS FOR HOMELAND SECU-**
21 **RITY.**

22 Section 308(b)(2)(B) of the Homeland Security Act
23 of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)(B)) is amended in section
24 308(b)(2)(B), by adding at the end the following:

25 “(xv) Countering violent extremism.”

1 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

2 Sections ~~1~~ through ~~6~~ shall expire on the date that
3 is ~~7~~ years after the date of enactment of this Act.

4 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

5 *This Act may be cited as the “Countering Online Re-*
6 *ruitment of Violent Extremists Act of 2016”.*

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 *In this Act:*

9 (1) *APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-*
10 *TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional commit-*
11 *tees” means the Committee on Homeland Security*
12 *and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Com-*
13 *mittee on Homeland Security of the House of Rep-*
14 *resentatives.*

15 (2) *CENTER FOR HOMELAND SECURITY.—The*
16 *term “center for homeland security” means a univer-*
17 *sity-based center the Secretary of Homeland Security*
18 *designates under section 308(b)(2) of the Homeland*
19 *Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)).*

20 (3) *COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM; CVE.—*
21 *The terms “countering violent extremism” and*
22 *“CVE” mean proactive and relevant actions to deter*
23 *efforts by violent extremists to radicalize, recruit, and*
24 *mobilize followers to violence by providing positive*
25 *countervailing alternatives to violent extremist re-*
26 *ruitment and radicalization.*

1 (4) *CVE LAB.*—*The term “CVE Lab” means a*
2 *physical space and academic program at a center for*
3 *homeland security designated for participating stu-*
4 *dents to develop and test technology-based CVE solu-*
5 *tions.*

6 (5) *INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.*—*The*
7 *term “institution of higher education” has the mean-*
8 *ing given the term in section 101 of the Higher Edu-*
9 *cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).*

10 (6) *PARTICIPATING STUDENT.*—*The term “par-*
11 *ticipating student” means a student participating in*
12 *a CVE Lab.*

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14 *term “technology-based CVE solution” means an in-*
15 *strument developed by a participating student under*
16 *section 5(b)(1) that—*

17 (A) *appeals to young consumers of online*
18 *and social media;*

19 (B) *counters online recruitment of violent*
20 *extremists or builds resilience against online vio-*
21 *lent extremist recruitment amongst participating*
22 *students’ peers;*

23 (C) *operates on a technological platform or*
24 *is technological in nature, including social*

1 *media campaigns and mobile software applica-*
2 *tions; and*

3 *(D) is supported by empirical evidence and*
4 *incorporates metrics for future assessment.*

5 (8) *VIOLENT EXTREMISM.*—*The term “violent ex-*
6 *tremism” means ideologically motivated international*
7 *terrorism or domestic terrorism, as those terms are*
8 *defined in section 2331 of title 18, United States*
9 *Code.*

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13 *images and ideas to shape the public narrative makes*
14 *social media a strategic messaging and recruitment*
15 *mechanism for terrorists, insurgent groups, and gov-*
16 *ernments engaged in conflict.*

17 (2) *The United States Government and its part-*
18 *ners around the world have not been effective in using*
19 *social media to produce alternative narratives to stem*
20 *terrorist recruitment through social media.*

21 (3) *Due to the strategic role the Internet plays*
22 *in recruitment to terrorist violence, online counter-*
23 *narratives promoted by non-governmental peers are*
24 *most likely to directly reach and resonate with indi-*

1 *viduals who seek to become foreign fighters or carry*
2 *out terrorist attacks.*

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4 *ented solutions to countering violent extremism, as*
5 *evidenced by the Youth Action Agenda to Prevent Vio-*
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7 *duced by young activists at the Global Youth Summit*
8 *Against Violent Extremism on the margins of the*
9 *70th United Nations General Assembly meeting in*
10 *New York, on September 28, 2015.*

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12 *students to develop technology-based solutions will en-*
13 *able more innovative and effective alternative nar-*
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15 *line.*

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18 *the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.*
19 *188(b)(2)(B)), as added by section 7, the Secretary of*
20 *Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary for*
21 *Science and Technology and in coordination with the office*
22 *within the Department of Homeland Security responsible*
23 *for coordinating the CVE efforts of the Department of*
24 *Homeland Security, may—*

25 (1) *establish 1 or more CVE Labs; and*

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20 *velop a final business plan describing how the*
21 *technology-based CVE solution would be scaled*
22 *up for investment and possible deployment by*
23 *private sector entities, philanthropic organiza-*
24 *tions, or Federal, State, local, or tribal agencies;*

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20 *eral of the United States shall submit to the Secretary of*
21 *Homeland Security and the appropriate congressional com-*
22 *mittees a report regarding the impact of the CVE Lab.*

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25 *Technology and in coordination with the office within the*

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18 *7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.*

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