

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1196

To require a plan to combat international travel by terrorists and foreign fighters, accelerate the transfer of certain border security systems to foreign partner governments, establish minimum international border security standards, authorize the suspension of foreign assistance to countries not making significant efforts to comply with such minimum standards, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 16, 2017

Mr. ZELDIN (for himself, Mr. McCAUL, and Ms. SINEMA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and 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

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## A BILL

To require a plan to combat international travel by terrorists and foreign fighters, accelerate the transfer of certain border security systems to foreign partner governments, establish minimum international border security standards, authorize the suspension of foreign assistance to countries not making significant efforts to comply with such minimum standards, 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 “Counterterrorism  
3 Screening and Assistance Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. FOREIGN PARTNER ENGAGEMENT PLAN.**

5 (a) FINDINGS.—Consistent with the final report of  
6 the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of  
7 Representatives bipartisan “Task Force on Combating  
8 Terrorist and Foreign Fighter Travel”, Congress makes  
9 the following findings:

10 (1) It is important for the national security of  
11 the United States to assist foreign partners in clos-  
12 ing security gaps which may allow terrorists and for-  
13 eign fighters to travel internationally, avoiding de-  
14 tection.

15 (2) Building foreign partner capacity to combat  
16 terrorist travel helps extend the United States secu-  
17 rity beyond its border to mitigate threats before they  
18 reach the United States.

19 (3) United States Government departments and  
20 agencies have spent billions of dollars to help foreign  
21 partners improve their security against terrorist  
22 travel since the attacks of September 11, 2001, in-  
23 cluding through the provision of technical assistance,  
24 equipment, training, and other tools.

25 (4) The lack of a United States Government-  
26 wide, risk-based approach increases the odds that

1 systematic security gaps abroad may persist and  
2 that United States response efforts will not be maxi-  
3 mized in order to close these gaps.

4 (5) Failure to effectively coordinate capacity-  
5 building activities also results in greater risk of over-  
6 lap, waste, and unnecessary duplication between the  
7 United States and international programs.

8 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
9 gress that the United States Government must ensure ca-  
10 pacity-building assistance is coordinated both among  
11 United States Government departments and agencies as  
12 well as with foreign implementing partners, and assistance  
13 should be prioritized for the highest-risk countries for  
14 travel by terrorists and foreign fighters.

15 (c) PLAN.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
17 after the date of the enactment of this Act and every  
18 two years thereafter at the time of the President’s  
19 budget submission to Congress under section 1105  
20 of title 31, United States Code, until 2023, the Sec-  
21 retary of State shall, in accordance with the protec-  
22 tion of intelligence sources and methods, develop and  
23 submit to the appropriate congressional committees  
24 unclassified and classified versions of a foreign part-  
25 ner engagement plan which catalogues existing ca-

1        capacity-building initiatives abroad to combat travel by  
2        terrorists and foreign fighters and identifies areas  
3        for adjustment to align ongoing efforts with risk-  
4        based priorities.

5            (2) COORDINATION.—The plan required under  
6        paragraph (1) shall be developed in coordination  
7        with all relevant United States Government depart-  
8        ments and agencies and in consultation with the  
9        Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of  
10       the Treasury, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney  
11       General, the Director of National Intelligence, and  
12       the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

13           (3) CONTENTS.—The plan required under para-  
14       graph (1) shall—

15            (A) include an assessment of the countries  
16        of greatest concern and risk for travel to the  
17        United States by members of foreign terrorist  
18        organizations and foreign fighters, which may  
19        be based on the minimum standards described  
20        in section 4(b), as well as other factors, as ap-  
21        propriate, including—

22            (i) an identification of the number of  
23        flights that originate from last points of  
24        departure in each country to the United  
25        States;

1 (ii) visa waiver program status or visa  
2 application and denial rates for each coun-  
3 try;

4 (iii) recent threats, terrorist and for-  
5 eign fighter travel trends, and the overall  
6 terror threat environment in each country;  
7 and

8 (iv) other criteria as determined by  
9 the Secretary of State and the Secretary of  
10 Homeland Security;

11 (B) detail existing United States Govern-  
12 ment programs, projects, and activities which  
13 are intended to or have the substantial effect of  
14 building the capacity of such countries to com-  
15 bat travel by terrorists and foreign fighters, in-  
16 cluding estimated spending levels by country  
17 where practicable; and

18 (C) outline a plan for prioritizing United  
19 States Government resources toward countries  
20 referred to in subparagraph (A), including—

21 (i) identifying efforts which should be  
22 reformed, consolidated, or eliminated; and

23 (ii) detailing new programs, projects,  
24 or activities that are requested, being

1                   planned, or are undergoing implementation  
2                   and associated costs.

3 **SEC. 3. SHARING SYSTEMS AND EQUIPMENT TO OBSTRUCT**  
4                   **TRAVEL BY TERRORISTS AND FOREIGN**  
5                   **FIGHTERS.**

6           (a) BORDER SECURITY AND COUNTERTERRORISM  
7 SCREENING TOOLS.—

8                   (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2)  
9                   and subsection (d), the Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
10                  rity and the Secretary of State shall, to the extent  
11                  practicable, accelerate the provision of appropriate  
12                  versions of the following systems to foreign govern-  
13                  ments:

14                         (A) U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s  
15                         global travel targeting and analysis systems.

16                         (B) The Department of State’s  
17                         watchlisting, identification, and screening sys-  
18                         tems.

19                   (2) PRIORITIZATION.—The Secretary of Home-  
20                  land Security and the Secretary of State shall co-  
21                  ordinate to prioritize the provision of the systems  
22                  specified in paragraph (1) to countries determined to  
23                  be countries referred to in subsection (c)(3)(A) of  
24                  section 2 in the foreign partner engagement plan re-  
25                  quired under such section.

1 (b) EQUIPMENT TRANSFER.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2),  
3 (3), and (8), the Secretary of Homeland Security is  
4 authorized to provide, with or without reimburse-  
5 ment, excess nonlethal equipment and supplies  
6 owned by the Department of Homeland Security to  
7 a foreign government.

8 (2) DETERMINATION.—The Secretary of Home-  
9 land Security is authorized to provide equipment and  
10 supplies pursuant to paragraph (1) if the Secretary  
11 determines that the provision of such equipment and  
12 supplies would—

13 (A) further the homeland security interests  
14 of the United States; and

15 (B) enhance the recipient government’s ca-  
16 pacity to—

17 (i) mitigate the risk or threat of ter-  
18 rorism, infectious disease, or natural dis-  
19 aster;

20 (ii) protect and expedite lawful trade  
21 and travel; or

22 (iii) enforce intellectual property  
23 rights.

24 (3) LIMITATION ON TRANSFER.—The Secretary  
25 of Homeland Security may not—

1 (A) provide any equipment or supplies that  
2 are designated as items on the United States  
3 Munitions List pursuant to section 38 of the  
4 Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778); or

5 (B) provide any vessel or aircraft pursuant  
6 to this subsection.

7 (4) RELATED TRAINING.—In conjunction with a  
8 provision of equipment or supplies pursuant to para-  
9 graph (1), the Secretary of Homeland Security may  
10 provide such equipment-related or supplies-related  
11 training and assistance as the Secretary determines  
12 to be necessary.

13 (5) MAINTENANCE OF TRANSFERRED EQUIP-  
14 MENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may  
15 provide for the maintenance of transferred equip-  
16 ment or supplies through service contracts or other  
17 means, with or without reimbursement, as the Sec-  
18 retary determines appropriate.

19 (6) REIMBURSEMENT OF EXPENSES.—The Sec-  
20 retary of Homeland Security is authorized to collect  
21 payment from the recipient government for the pro-  
22 vision of training, shipping costs, supporting mate-  
23 rials, maintenance, supplies, or other assistance in  
24 support of provided equipment or supplies under this  
25 subsection.

1           (7) RECEIPTS CREDITED AS OFFSETTING COL-  
2           LECTIONS.—Notwithstanding section 3302 of title  
3           31, United States Code, any amount collected under  
4           this subsection—

5                   (A) shall be credited as offsetting collec-  
6                   tions, subject to appropriations, to the account  
7                   that finances the activities and services for  
8                   which the payment is received; and

9                   (B) shall remain available until expended  
10                  for the purpose of providing for the security in-  
11                  terests of the homeland.

12           (8) CONCURRENCE.—The Secretary of Home-  
13           land Security may exercise the authority under this  
14           subsection only with the concurrence of the Sec-  
15           retary of State.

16           (9) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this  
17           subsection may be construed as affecting, aug-  
18           menting, or diminishing the authority of the Sec-  
19           retary of State.

20           (10) DEFINITION.—For the purposes of this  
21           section, the term “excess nonlethal equipment and  
22           supplies” means equipment and supplies the Sec-  
23           retary of Homeland Security has determined is ei-  
24           ther not required for United States domestic oper-

1 ations, or would be more effective to homeland secu-  
2 rity if deployed for use outside of the United States.

3 (c) NOTIFICATION TO CONGRESS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 days be-  
5 fore providing any systems or equipment or supplies  
6 under this section, the Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
7 rity and Secretary of State shall provide notification  
8 to the appropriate congressional committees of such  
9 provision.

10 (2) CONTENTS.—A notification required under  
11 paragraph (1) shall include the following:

12 (A) The specific vulnerability that will be  
13 mitigated by the provision of any systems or  
14 equipment or supplies under this section.

15 (B) An explanation as to why the recipient  
16 is unable or unwilling to independently acquire  
17 such systems or equipment or supplies.

18 (C) An evacuation plan for any sensitive  
19 technologies in case of emergency or instability  
20 in the country to which such systems or equip-  
21 ment or supplies is being provided.

22 (D) How the United States Government  
23 will ensure that such systems or equipment or  
24 supplies are being maintained appropriately and  
25 used as intended.

1 (E) The total dollar value of such systems,  
2 equipment, and supplies.

3 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The authority provided  
5 under this section shall be exercised in accordance  
6 with applicable provisions of the Arms Export Con-  
7 trol Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), the Export Ad-  
8 ministration Regulations, or any other similar provi-  
9 sion of law.

10 (2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term  
11 “Export Administration Regulations” means—

12 (A) the Export Administration Regulations  
13 as maintained and amended under the authority  
14 of the International Emergency Economic Pow-  
15 ers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) and codified  
16 in subchapter C of chapter VII of title 15, Code  
17 of Federal Regulations; or

18 (B) any successor regulations.

19 **SEC. 4. ACTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES**  
20 **THAT FAIL TO MEET MINIMUM STANDARDS**  
21 **FOR SERIOUS AND SUSTAINED EFFORTS TO**  
22 **COMBAT TERRORIST AND FOREIGN FIGHTER**  
23 **TRAVEL.**

24 (a) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than April 30 of  
2 each year through 2022, the Secretary of State, in  
3 coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Secu-  
4 rity, shall submit to the appropriate congressional  
5 committees a report with respect to the status of ef-  
6 forts of foreign governments to combat terrorist and  
7 foreign fighter travel, which shall include an update  
8 to the foreign partner engagement plan required  
9 under section 2(c). Such reports shall include de-  
10 scriptions of relevant United States Government ac-  
11 tions taken to help countries comply with minimum  
12 standards for serious and sustained efforts to com-  
13 bat terrorist and foreign fighter travel, such as those  
14 efforts described in subsection (b).

15           (2) FORM.—The reports required by paragraph  
16 (1) may be submitted in unclassified or classified  
17 form.

18           (3) INCLUSION IN COUNTRY REPORTS ON TER-  
19 RORISM.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary of  
20 State, in coordination with the Secretary of Home-  
21 land Security, should incorporate the reports re-  
22 quired by paragraph (1) into the annual country re-  
23 ports on terrorism submitted pursuant to section  
24 140 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fis-  
25 cal Years 1988 and 1989 (22 U.S.C. 2656f).

1 (b) MINIMUM STANDARDS DESCRIBED.—The min-  
2 imum standards for serious and sustained efforts to com-  
3 bat terrorist and foreign fighter travel applicable to the  
4 government of a foreign country include the following:

5 (1) The government of the country makes  
6 meaningful efforts to identify and monitor terrorists  
7 and foreign fighters operating within the territory of  
8 the country.

9 (2) The government of the country regularly ex-  
10 changes substantive counterterrorism information  
11 with other foreign governments, including the  
12 United States Government, through bilateral or mul-  
13 tilateral channels and international organizations  
14 such as INTERPOL, and cooperates with other for-  
15 eign governments in the investigation and prosecu-  
16 tion of terrorists and foreign fighters.

17 (3) The government of the country implements  
18 effective border controls or participates in an exist-  
19 ing border-crossing control regime that has been de-  
20 termined by the United States Government to em-  
21 ploy effective border-crossing oversight.

22 (4) The government of the country has controls  
23 and systems in place to prevent and report upon  
24 counterfeiting, forgery, and fraudulent use or pos-

1 session of false, stolen, or lost identity papers and  
2 travel documents.

3 (5) The government of the country collects air  
4 passenger data and employs evidence-based traveler  
5 risk assessment and screening procedures, including  
6 collection and analysis of travel data.

7 (6) The government of the country appro-  
8 priately screens travelers, including vetting of trav-  
9 elers at air, sea, and land ports of entry, against  
10 counterterrorism and other criminal databases, as  
11 appropriate.

12 (7) The government of the country submits in-  
13 formation to INTERPOL databases and screens  
14 travelers against INTERPOL databases at ports of  
15 entry and exit.

16 (8) The government of the country has estab-  
17 lished and implemented domestic laws criminalizing  
18 material support to foreign terrorist organizations  
19 and has the ability and willingness to prosecute  
20 cases involving such material support to foreign ter-  
21 rorist organizations.

22 (9) The government of the country takes meas-  
23 ures to prevent individuals in its territory from trav-  
24 eling abroad to enlist with or provide material sup-  
25 port to foreign terrorist organizations.

1           (10) The government of the country takes  
2           measures to ensure a minimal level of corruption  
3           and likelihood that corruption could impact the ve-  
4           racity of security and intelligence reporting from the  
5           country, a minimal likelihood that such corruption  
6           could adversely affect the legitimacy of national  
7           identity papers of the country, and the country does  
8           not shelter suspects from investigation and prosecu-  
9           tion.

10           (11) The government of a country is not deter-  
11           mined to be a high-risk program country under sec-  
12           tion 217(c)(12) of the Immigration and Nationality  
13           Act (8. U.S.C. 1187(c)(12)).

14           (c) SUSPENSION OF ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of  
15           State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Se-  
16           curity and the heads of other Federal agencies, as appro-  
17           priate, is authorized to suspend nonhumanitarian,  
18           nontrade-related foreign assistance to any government of  
19           a foreign country if the foreign country is identified in  
20           subparagraph (C) of subsection (a)(1) in the most recent  
21           report submitted to the appropriate congressional commit-  
22           tees under such subsection.

23           **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

24           In this Act:

1           (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
2           TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
3           mittees” means the Committee on Homeland Secu-  
4           rity and Governmental Affairs, the Committee on  
5           Foreign Relations, the Committee on the Judiciary,  
6           and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
7           Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on  
8           Homeland Security, the Committee on the Judiciary,  
9           and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House  
10          of Representatives.

11          (2) FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATION.—The  
12          term “foreign terrorist organization” means an or-  
13          ganization that is designated as a foreign terrorist  
14          organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immi-  
15          gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

16          (3) NONHUMANITARIAN, NONTRADE-RELATED  
17          FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—The term “nonhumani-  
18          tarian, nontrade-related foreign assistance” has the  
19          meaning given the term in section 103 of the Traf-  
20          ficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 (22 U.S.C.  
21          7102).

1 **SEC. 6. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.**

2       No additional funds are authorized to carry out the  
3 requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be car-  
4 ried out using amounts otherwise authorized.

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