



# COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

## ***HR 3106, the “Domestic and International Terrorism DATA Act”*** ***Introduced by Chairman Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS)*** ***Approved by the Committee on Homeland Security by Voice Vote, July 17, 2019***

**Endorsed By:** ADL (Anti-Defamation League), Arab American Institute, The Jewish Federations of North America, Lawyers’ Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, Muslim Advocates, NAACP, National Action Network, Southern Poverty Law Center

Domestic terrorism—including white supremacist extremism and other forms of violent right-wing extremism—presents a persistent and growing threat to the security of our homeland. Data collected by civil rights groups and other stakeholders attest to a troubling growth in domestic terrorism in recent years.<sup>1</sup> Today, Federal efforts to address domestic terrorism are largely outside of public view. Still, the limited information available shows that domestic terrorism is on the rise.<sup>2</sup>

There is an urgent need for centralized, reliable, Federal information on domestic terrorism to inform counter-terrorism policymaking.<sup>3</sup> H.R. 3106, the **Domestic and International Terrorism Documentation and Analysis of Threats in America (DATA) Act** seeks to foster transparency and facilitate informed policymaking by—

- requiring FBI, DOJ, and DHS to produce an annual, unclassified joint report that provides the following: data on domestic and international terrorist incidents; data on assessments, investigations, indictments, prosecutions, and convictions with a domestic or international terrorism nexus; and the number of full-time staff working on domestic terrorism employed by DOJ and DHS;
- requiring the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to audit the annual joint reports;

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<sup>1</sup> According to the ADL (Anti-Defamation League), in 2018, domestic extremists killed at least 50 people in the United States; the perpetrators of these attacks had links to right-wing extremism, and most were tied to white supremacist extremism. This is a significant increase over the number of domestic extremist-related murders documented in 2017, making 2018 the fourth-deadliest year on record for domestic extremist-related killings since 1970. *Murder and Extremism in the United States in 2018*, ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE, Jan. 2019, <https://www.adl.org/murder-and-extremism-2018>.

<sup>2</sup> Between 2009 to 2018, there were 427 extremist-related killings in the U.S. Of those, 73.3% were committed by right-wing extremists, 23.4% by Islamist extremists, and 3.2% by left-wing extremists. In short, three out of four killings committed by extremists in the U.S. were committed by right-wing extremists (313) from 2009 to 2018. *Id. See also, In the United States, right-wing violence is on the rise*, WASH. POST, Nov. 25, 2018, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/in-the-united-states-right-wing-violence-is-on-the-rise/2018/11/25/61f7f24a-deb4-11e8-85df-7a6b4d25cfbb\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/in-the-united-states-right-wing-violence-is-on-the-rise/2018/11/25/61f7f24a-deb4-11e8-85df-7a6b4d25cfbb_story.html); *Arrests in domestic terror probes outpace those inspired by Islamic extremists*, WASH. POST, Mar. 9, 2019, [https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/arrests-in-domestic-terror-probes-outpace-those-inspired-by-islamic-extremists/2019/03/08/0bf329b6-392f-11e9-a2cd-307b06d0257b\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/national-security/arrests-in-domestic-terror-probes-outpace-those-inspired-by-islamic-extremists/2019/03/08/0bf329b6-392f-11e9-a2cd-307b06d0257b_story.html).

<sup>3</sup> On May 8, 2019, the Committee on Homeland Security convened a hearing entitled “Confronting the Rise of Domestic Terrorism in the Homeland,” at which the Committee received testimony from counterterrorism officials from the FBI, DHS, and DOJ that underscored the growing threat posed by domestic terrorists—particularly white supremacists and other right-wing extremists. On September 10, 2019, the Committee convened a hearing entitled “Global Terrorism: Threats to the Homeland, Part I,” at which Members received testimony from academics and experts regarding the most pressing terrorist threats to the American people, including the recent rise in far-right domestic terrorism such as white supremacist extremist violence.

- requiring DHS' Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) to study transnational links between groups linked to domestic terrorism in the United States, such as white supremacists, and their counterparts abroad; and
- authorizing an annual appropriation of \$2 million to carry out the Act, of which \$1 million would fund the annual joint report and \$1 million would fund S&T's research on domestic terrorism.

**H.R. 3106 was approved by voice vote in the Committee on Homeland Security, underscoring bipartisan support for (1) ensuring that data on Federal efforts to counter domestic and international terrorism is publicly available and (2) improving research on domestic terrorism.**

To confront domestic terrorism, Congress and the public need information from the government on domestic terrorist incidents and the government's activities related to combating domestic terrorism. While public, open-source data compiled by outside stakeholders have helped our understanding of the domestic terrorism threat landscape, there is no substitute for government data. The Federal government published similar information in the past.<sup>4</sup> In light of the surge in domestic terrorism, a renewed effort to share such information with the public is justified.

Protecting the homeland is an urgent and important task. Congress and the public require transparency from the FBI, DOJ, and DHS regarding domestic and international terrorist incidents and how the government is allocating resources and addressing these incidents. The government must also research current and emerging terrorist trends, including transnational links between individuals and groups associated with domestic terrorist ideologies, such as white supremacist extremism, in the United States. Enactment of the ***Domestic and International Terrorism DATA Act*** will ensure greater transparency on this persistent and growing homeland security threat.

**Co-Sponsored By:** Reps. Jackson Lee (TX), Langevin (RI), Richmond (LA), Payne (NJ), Rice (NY), Correa (CA), Torres Small (NM), Underwood (IL), Rose (NY), Slotkin (MI), Cleaver (MO), Green (TX), Clarke (NY), Titus (NV), Watson Coleman (NJ), Barragán (CA), Demings (FL), Pascrell (NJ), Holmes Norton (DC), Omar (MN), Schakowsky (IL), Espaillat (NY), Wilson (FL), Cohen (TN), McGovern (MA), Cisneros (CA), Rush (IL), Krishnamoorthi (IL), Swalwell (CA), Foster (IL), Lee (CA), Spanberger (VA), Clay (MO), Brown (MD), Davis (IL), Neguse (CO), Hastings (FL), Lynch (MA), Escobar (TX), Khanna (CA), Casten (IL), DeFazio (OR), Pressley (MA), Cummings (MD), Panetta (CA), Beatty (OH), Higgins (NY), Norcross (NJ), Ryan (OH), Boyle (PA), Ocasio-Cortez (NY), Castor (FL), Fudge (OH), McEachin (VA), Meeks (NY), Chu (CA), Lamb (PA) (as of 9/19/19)

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<sup>4</sup> From the early 1990s until 2005, the FBI produced a *Terrorism* report that captured both domestic and international terror incidents in the United States. Although the report was not perfect, it provided clarity on the federal government's actions to counter all forms of terrorism. The report provided additional insight regarding the FBI's concept of "threats" and provided background on trends in terrorism.