



COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY

Ranking Member Bennie G. Thompson

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Markup Statement of Ranking Member Seth Magaziner (D-RI)

Counterterrorism and Intelligence Subcommittee Markup

March 25, 2025

Today we are considering 10 bills that will make our country safer. I thank Chairman Pfluger and his staff for their partnerships in negotiating this bipartisan package of legislation, and for starting a new Congress on a bipartisan and productive note. I look forward to supporting all of the bills being marked up today.

Included in this bipartisan package are three bills to address the pressing challenge of transnational repression in the United States. The “Combating Transnational Repression Act” offered by Chairman Pfluger, the “Law Enforcement Support and Counter Transnational Repression Act” offered by Representative Evans, and my bill, the “Strengthening State and Local Efforts to Combat Transnational Repression Act” – all of which respond to the ongoing practice by authoritarian and repressive governments of directing attacks on individuals in the US, including US citizens, to silence them and take away a core freedom that we enjoy as a country - freedom of speech.

Journalists, activists, and political dissents should not have to fear for their lives while on US soil, and these bills will strengthen our ability to keep people safe from foreign nations who seek to do them harm for exercising their rights to free speech.

Today we will also consider the “DHS Special Events Program and Support Act,” introduced by a former Subcommittee Member, Representative Dina Titus of Nevada. Which will ensure that DHS may continue providing risk assessments and support to high profile special events across the United States. Events like the Super Bowl, Boston Marathon, and upcoming World Cup require state and local officials to plan and manage complex security to prevent, mitigate, and respond to potential threats. Ms. Titus’s bill will ensure that DHS is authorized to continue its work to support those officials in protecting events that bring together communities across the country.

The “Strengthening Oversight of DHS Intelligence Act,” as introduced by Mr. Hernández of Puerto Rico, is a commonsense bill that requires the DHS Secretary and DHS Chiefs for Privacy and Civil Rights and Civil Liberties to coordinate on ensuring that DHS intelligence is shared, retained, and disseminated in a manner that protects individuals’ rights. DHS is a uniquely positioned member of the intelligence community, as it is the sole intelligence agency that has a mandate to share intelligence with state and local law enforcement and the private sector. As the federal agency that interacts with more Americans than any other, it is imperative that DHS intelligence is produced and shared with American’s constitutional freedoms in mind.

The “DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2025,” offered by Ms. Pou of New Jersey. DHS is the largest Federal law enforcement agency, and Ms. Pou’s bill works to put all of DHS’s law enforcement basic training programs on a path to accreditation. In 2019, the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers—the largest provider of Federal law enforcement training—testified before this Committee that accreditation is important because it, I quote, “assigns rigor to training processes” and

“results in the best product.” Certainly, all of us on the Subcommittee want to equip DHS law enforcement with the best training possible to carry out their various missions to protect the homeland.

Today we will also consider six Republican led bills. These bills all enhance our homeland security and tackle the evolving threat from terrorism.

Representative Luttrell’s bill, the “Syria Threat Assessment Act,” focuses on countering bad actors in Syria, a hotbed for ISIS terrorists and new recruits. Chairman Pfluger’s bill, the “Generative AI Terrorism Risk Assessment Act,” requires DHS to assess the latest use of technology by terrorists - generative artificial intelligence. Representative Mackenzie’s bill, the “DHS Intelligence Rotational Assignment Program and Law Enforcement Support Act,” will authorize a critical program for intelligence analysts at DHS that improves their analytic capabilities. And, Representative Gonzales’s bill, the “National Strategy for School Security Act of 2025,” which will secure our elementary and secondary schools against acts of terrorism and reduce school security vulnerabilities.

I thank all Members for their work on these bills, and I look forward to supporting all of them.

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