

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4741

To require the development of a strategy to promote the use of secure telecommunications infrastructure worldwide, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 19, 2023

Ms. MANNING (for herself and Mrs. KIM of California) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To require the development of a strategy to promote the use of secure telecommunications infrastructure worldwide, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Securing Global Tele-
5 communications Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 It is the sense of Congress as follows:

8 (1) The United States Government should pro-
9 mote and take steps to ensure American leadership
10 in strategic technology industries, including tele-

1 communications infrastructure and other informa-
2 tion and communications technologies.

3 (2) The expansive presence of companies linked
4 to the Chinese Communist Party, such as Huawei,
5 in global mobile networks and the national security
6 implications thereof, such as the ability of the Peo-
7 ple’s Republic of China to exfiltrate the information
8 flowing through those networks and shut off coun-
9 tries’ internet access, demonstrates the importance
10 of the United States remaining at the technological
11 frontier and the dire consequences of falling behind.

12 (3) The significant cost of countering Huawei’s
13 market leadership in telecommunications infrastruc-
14 ture around the world underscores the urgency of
15 supporting the competitiveness of United States
16 companies in next-generation information and com-
17 munication technology.

18 (4) To remain a leader at the International
19 Telecommunication Union (ITU) and preserve the
20 ITU’s technical integrity, the United States must
21 work with emerging economies and developing na-
22 tions to bolster global telecommunications security
23 and protect American national security interests.

24 (5) Multilateral cooperation with like-minded
25 partners and allies is critical to carry out the signifi-

1 cant effort of financing and promoting secure net-
2 works around the world and to achieve market lead-
3 ership of trusted vendors in this sector.

4 **SEC. 3. STRATEGY FOR SECURING GLOBAL TELECOMMUNI-**
5 **CATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE.**

6 (a) STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 90 days
7 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary
8 of State shall develop and submit to the Committees on
9 Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and En-
10 ergy and Commerce and the Committees on Foreign Rela-
11 tions and Commerce, Science, and Transportation and of
12 the Senate a strategy, to be known as the “Strategy to
13 Secure Global Telecommunications Infrastructure” (re-
14 ferred to in this Act as the “Strategy”), to promote the
15 use of secure telecommunication infrastructure in coun-
16 tries other than the United States.

17 (b) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of
18 State shall consult with the President of the Export-Im-
19 port Bank of the United States, the Chief Executive Offi-
20 cer of the Development Finance Corporation, the Adminis-
21 trator of the United States Agency for International De-
22 velopment, the Director of the Trade and Development
23 Agency, the Chair of the Federal Communications Com-
24 mission, and the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for
25 Communications and Information, in developing the Strat-

1 egy, which shall consist of an approach led by the Depart-
2 ment of State using the policy tools, and informed by the
3 technical expertise, of the other Federal entities so con-
4 sulted to achieve the goal described in subsection (a).

5 (c) ELEMENTS.—The Strategy shall also include sec-
6 tions on each of the following:

7 (1) Mobile networks, including a description of
8 efforts by countries other than the United States
9 to—

10 (A) promote trusted Open RAN tech-
11 nologies while protecting against any security
12 risks posed by untrusted vendors in Open RAN
13 networks;

14 (B) use financing mechanisms to assist
15 “rip-and-replace” projects and to incentivize
16 countries to choose trusted equipment vendors;

17 (C) bolster multilateral cooperation, espe-
18 cially with developing countries and emerging
19 economies, to promote the deployment of trust-
20 ed wireless networks worldwide; and

21 (D) collaborate with trusted private sector
22 companies to counter Chinese market leadership
23 in the telecom equipment industry.

24 (2) Data centers, including a description of ef-
25 forts to—

1 (A) utilize financing mechanisms to
2 incentivize countries other than the United
3 States to choose trusted data center providers;
4 and

5 (B) bolster multilateral cooperation, espe-
6 cially with developing countries and emerging
7 economies, to promote the deployment of trust-
8 ed data centers worldwide.

9 (3) Sixth (and future) generation technologies
10 (6G), including a description of efforts to—

11 (A) deepen cooperation with like-minded
12 countries to promote United States and allied
13 market leadership in 6G networks and tech-
14 nologies; and

15 (B) increase buy-in from developing coun-
16 tries and emerging countries on trusted tech-
17 nologies.

18 (4) Low-Earth orbit satellites, aerostats, and
19 stratospheric balloons, including a description of ef-
20 forts to work with trusted private sector companies
21 to retain the ability to quickly provide internet con-
22 nection in response to emergency situations.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT ON MALIGN INFLUENCE AT THE INTER-**
2 **NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATION UNION.**

3 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall
5 develop and submit to the Committees on Foreign Affairs
6 and Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
7 tives and the Committees on Foreign Relations and Com-
8 merce, Science, and Transportation the Senate a report
9 on Russian and Chinese strategies and efforts—

10 (1) to expand the mandate of the International
11 Telecommunication Union (ITU) to cover internet
12 governance policy; and

13 (2) to advance other actions favorable to au-
14 thoritarian interests and/or hostile to fair, industry-
15 led processes.

16 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required by subsection
17 (a) shall also identify efforts by China and Russia—

18 (1) to increase the ITU’s jurisdiction over inter-
19 net governance and to propose internet governance
20 standards at the ITU;

21 (2) to leverage their private sector actors to ad-
22 vance their national interests through the ITU, in-
23 cluding—

24 (A) encouraging Chinese and Russian com-
25 panies to leverage their market power to pres-

1 sure other member countries to deliver favor-
2 able decisions on ITU elections; and

3 (B) China's efforts to leverage Huawei's
4 role as the primary telecommunications equip-
5 ment and services provider for many developing
6 countries to compel such countries to deliver fa-
7 vorable decisions on standards proposals, elec-
8 tion victories, candidate selection, and other le-
9 vers of power at the ITU; and

10 (3) to use the influence of Chinese and Russian
11 nationals serving in the ITU to advantage the com-
12 panies, standards decisions, and candidates that ad-
13 vance the CCP and Kremlin's interests.

14 (c) FORM.—The report required by this section shall
15 be submitted in unclassified form, but may include a clas-
16 sified annex.

17 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON MULTILATERAL COORDINATION.**

18 Not later than 90 days after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination
20 with the President of the Export-Import Bank of the
21 United States, the Administrator for the United States
22 Agency on International Development, the Chief Executive
23 Officer of the Development Finance Corporation, the
24 Chair of the Federal Communications Commission, and
25 the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications

1 and Information, shall develop and submit to the Commit-
2 tees on Foreign Affairs and Energy and Commerce and
3 of the House of Representatives and the Committees For-
4 eign Relations and on Commerce, Science, and Transpor-
5 tation and of the Senate a report that identifies opportuni-
6 ties for greater collaboration with allies and partners to
7 promote secure information and communications tech-
8 nology infrastructure in countries other than the United
9 States, including through—

10 (1) joint financing efforts to help trusted ven-
11 dors win bids to build out information and commu-
12 nications technology (ICT) infrastructure;

13 (2) incorporating ICT focuses into allies' and
14 partners' international development finance initia-
15 tives; and

16 (3) diplomatic coordination to emphasize the
17 importance of secure telecommunications infrastruc-
18 ture to countries using untrusted providers.

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