

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8356

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a task force on deterring and combating intellectual property theft by foreign nations at institutions of higher education and to require such institutions to have in place procedures and protocols to deter and combat such theft, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a task force on deterring and combating intellectual property theft by foreign nations at institutions of higher education and to require such institutions to have in place procedures and protocols to deter and combat such theft, 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 “Combatting University
5 Research Theft Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE; CERTIFICATION**
2 **REQUIREMENT.**

3 (a) TASK FORCE.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
5 the date of the enactment of this section, the Sec-
6 retary of Homeland Security, acting through the Di-
7 rector of the National Intellectual Property Rights
8 Coordination Center, shall establish a task force
9 within the National Intellectual Property Rights Co-
10 ordination Center to develop best practices for insti-
11 tutions of higher education receiving funding for ap-
12 plicable research from the Federal Government for
13 implementing security procedures and protocols that
14 deter and combat theft of intellectual property.

15 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the
16 establishment of the task force under paragraph (1),
17 the Director of the National Intellectual Property
18 Rights Coordination Center shall submit to institu-
19 tions of higher education and Congress a report on
20 the best practices developed by the task force under
21 subsection (a).

22 (b) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Each entity of
23 the Federal Government that provides after the date of
24 the enactment of this section funds to an institution of
25 higher education for applicable research shall, as a condi-
26 tion of providing such funds, require such institution to

1 certify to such entity that the institution has procedures
2 and protocols in place to deter and combat theft of intel-
3 lectual property by foreign nations or agents.

4 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 (1) APPLICABLE RESEARCH.—The term “appli-
6 cable research” means research determined by the
7 Director of the National Intellectual Property Rights
8 Coordination Center to be applicable.

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

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