

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 917

To direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to prepare and submit periodic reports to Congress on the role of telecommunications in hate crimes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 27, 2019

Mr. CASEY (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. JONES, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To direct the Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information to prepare and submit periodic reports to Congress on the role of telecommunications in hate crimes.

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 “Stop Harmful and
5 Abusive Telecommunications Expression Act of 2019” or
6 the “Stop HATE Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORTS ON THE ROLE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS**
2 **IN HATE CRIMES.**

3 (a) PERIODIC REPORTS REQUIRED.—Not later than
4 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and
5 not less frequently than every 5 years thereafter, the As-
6 sistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and
7 Information, with the assistance of the Attorney General,
8 shall prepare and submit to the appropriate congressional
9 committees a report on the role of telecommunications in
10 violent acts and the commission of crimes of hate, as de-
11 scribed in the Hate Crime Statistics Act (34 U.S.C.
12 41305), against individuals or groups of individuals on the
13 basis of race, gender and gender identity, religion, dis-
14 ability, sexual orientation, ethnicity, color, or national ori-
15 gin.

16 (b) SCOPE OF REPORTS.—A report required by sub-
17 section (a) shall—

18 (1) analyze information on the use of tele-
19 communications, including broadcast television and
20 radio, cable television, public access television, com-
21 puter bulletin boards, and other electronic media, to
22 advocate and encourage violent acts and the commis-
23 sion of crimes of hate, as described in the Hate
24 Crime Statistics Act (34 U.S.C. 41305), against in-
25 dividuals or groups of individuals on the basis of
26 race, gender and gender identity, religion, disability,

1 sexual orientation, ethnicity, color, or national ori-
2 gin;

3 (2) include in the analysis required by para-
4 graph (1) an analysis of—

5 (A) the role that such telecommunications
6 are playing in giving groups that advocate and
7 encourage such violent acts and the commission
8 of such crimes of hate a platform to spread
9 their messages and to organize across the
10 United States; and

11 (B) how such use and role of telecommuni-
12 cations have changed due to the evolution of
13 new forms of communication on the internet
14 and other electronic media since the submission
15 of the previous report under subsection (a) (or,
16 in the case of the first report submitted under
17 such subsection, the report submitted under
18 section 155 of the National Telecommunications
19 and Information Administration Organization
20 Act); and

21 (3) include any recommendations, consistent
22 with the First Amendment to the Constitution, that
23 the Assistant Secretary considers appropriate and
24 necessary to address such use and such role of tele-
25 communications.

1 (c) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DE-
2 FINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congres-
3 sional committees” means—

4 (1) the Committee on Energy and Commerce,
5 the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee
6 on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;
7 and

8 (2) the Committee on Commerce, Science, and
9 Transportation, the Committee on the Judiciary,
10 and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

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