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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.**

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To make certain improvements relating to the coordination of efforts to promote internet freedom and access to information in Iran, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SWALWELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To make certain improvements relating to the coordination of efforts to promote internet freedom and access to information in Iran, 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 “Internet Reach and  
5       Access Now Act” or the “IRAN Act”.

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

7       (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the followings:

6 (2) Satellite-based residential and Direct-to-Cell  
7 (DTC) communications, Virtual Private Networks  
8 (VPNs), embedded-SIM (eSIM) technology, and  
9 other circumvention tools can mitigate those shut-  
10 downs, but Iranian users face high costs, sanctions-  
11 related equipment barriers, and pervasive digital  
12 surveillance.

13 (3) Clarifying United States policy and sup-  
14 porting secure connectivity tools will materially en-  
15 hance internet resilience for the people of Iran.

16 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
17 gress that United States policy should—

18 (1) promote the deployment of DTC commu-  
19 nications, VPNs, eSIM technology, and other secure  
20 communications tools that enhance open access to  
21 the internet in Iran; and

22 (2) ensure that sanctions and export-control  
23 regulations are implemented in a manner that does  
24 not unintentionally hinder access to such tools by  
25 the Iranian people.

1 **SEC. 3. IMPROVED COORDINATION OF EFFORTS TO PRO-**2 **MOTE INTERNET FREEDOM IN IRAN.**

3 (a) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—The  
4 Secretary of State shall be the Federal official with pri-  
5 mary responsibility for—

6 (1) promoting widespread internet freedom in  
7 Iran and expanding access to information for Ira-  
8 nian citizens;

9 (2) coordinating all efforts carried out by Fed-  
10 eral departments and agencies that relate to digital-  
11 freedom initiatives in Iran; and

12 (3) serving as the principal official responsible  
13 for updating and carrying out the strategy required  
14 under section 414 of the Iran Threat Reduction and  
15 Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8754).

16 (b) UPDATES TO COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGY TO  
17 PROMOTE INTERNET FREEDOM AND ACCESS TO INFOR-  
18 MATION IN IRAN.—

19 (1) UPDATES.—Section 414 of the Iran Threat  
20 Reduction and Syria Human Rights Act of 2012 (22  
21 U.S.C. 8754) is amended—

22 (A) by striking “Not later than” and in-  
23 serting “(A) INITIAL STRATEGY.—Not later  
24 than”;

25 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (11) and  
26 (12) as paragraphs (14) and (15), respectively;

(C) by inserting after paragraph (10) the following new paragraphs:

3                   “(11) evaluate the use of virtual private net-  
4                   works and direct-to-cell satellite technologies by civil  
5                   society and human rights activists in Iran and de-  
6                   velop strategies for increasing the accessibility of  
7                   such networks and technologies;

8               “(12) work with the Department of the Treas-  
9        ury and the Department of Commerce to ensure en-  
10      forcement of sanctions does not impede companies  
11      providing to Iranian civilians the technology and  
12      other tools necessary to access the open internet;

13               “(13) assess the ability of the Iranian regime to  
14               cut off all access to the internet and develop a strat-  
15               egy to circumvent internet blackouts for Iranian civil  
16               society;”; and

17 (D) by adding at the end the following new  
18 subsection:

19        “(b) UPDATES.—The Secretary of State, in consulta-  
20 tion with the Secretary of Treasury, the Secretary of Com-  
21 merce, and the heads of other Federal departments and  
22 agencies as appropriate shall review the strategy under  
23 subsection (a) on an ongoing basis and update the strategy  
24 as appropriate, taking into account the results of such re-  
25 view.”.

1 (2) SUBMISSION OF FIRST UPDATES.—

2 (A) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120  
3 days after the date of the enactment of this  
4 Act, the Secretary of State shall—

5 (i) review and update the strategy  
6 pursuant to section 414(b) of the Iran  
7 Threat Reduction and Syria Human  
8 Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8754), as  
9 amended by paragraph (1); and

10 (ii) submit such updated strategy to  
11 the appropriate congressional committees.

12 (B) FORM.—The strategy under subparagraph  
13 graph (A) shall be submitted in unclassified  
14 form, but may include a classified annex.

## 15 SEC. 4. SATELLITE AND DIRECT-TO-CELL (DTC) COVERAGE

16 **SAFEGUARDS.**

17 (a) NON-EXCLUSION CONDITION FOR NEW LI-  
18 CENSES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the  
19 Federal Communications Commission (FCC) shall, as a  
20 condition of any license, license modification, or market-  
21 access grant issued on or after the date of enactment of  
22 this Act, require that the licensee shall refrain from inten-  
23 tionally disabling, degrading, or geo-blocking satellite or  
24 DTC coverage over the land territory of Iran, except—

9 (b) INTERNATIONAL ADVOCACY.—The Secretary of  
10 State, in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and  
11 the FCC, shall oppose at the International Telecommuni-  
12 cation Union (ITU) or any successor body any proposal  
13 that would compel or encourage geographic exclusion of  
14 Iran specifically from satellite or DTC coverage provided  
15 by United States-licensed operators.

16 (c) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 180  
17 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
18 thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State shall submit  
19 to the appropriate congressional committees a report de-  
20 scribing—

21 (1) actions taken pursuant to subsection (b);

22 and

23 (2) any instances in which a satellite or DTC  
24 operator intentionally excluded coverage of Iran and  
25 the basis for such exclusion.

1 (d) SAVING CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section may  
2 be construed to—

## 10 SEC. 5. CYBERSECURITY CAPACITY FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IN 11 IRAN.

12 (a) TRAINING AND TOOLS.—The Secretary of State,  
13 acting through the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights,  
14 and Labor, shall, not later than 180 days after the date  
15 of the enactment of this Act, establish programs to—

16 (1) deliver remote or in-person cybersecurity  
17 training to journalists, human-rights defenders, and  
18 civil-society actors in Iran;

23 (3) provide multilingual educational materials  
24 that warn Iranian users about regime-controlled ap-  
25 plications and phishing campaigns.

## 1        (b) REPORTING AND EVALUATION.—

2                (1) QUARTERLY METRICS.—The Secretary of  
3                State shall track and, on a quarterly basis, make  
4                available to the appropriate congressional commit-  
5                tees aggregate metrics on the number of trainees, in-  
6                cident-response cases, and unique users of supported  
7                digital-safety tools.

8                (2) INDEPENDENT EVALUATION.—Not later  
9                than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this  
10               Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
11               shall submit to the appropriate congressional com-  
12               mittees an evaluation of the effectiveness of the pro-  
13               grams carried out under this section.

14        (c) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section may  
15               be construed to supersede or limit existing authority under  
16               section 404 of the Iran Threat Reduction and Syria  
17               Human Rights Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8754) or any other  
18               provision of law related to internet freedom programming  
19               in Iran.

20 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

21        (a) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appro-  
22               priated to the Secretary of State \$15,000,000 for each of  
23               fiscal years 2027 and 2028 to carry out sections 5 and  
24               6 of this Act, including programs that expand access to  
25               secure VPN services for individuals in Iran..

1 (b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant  
2 to subsection (a) shall remain available until expended.

### 3 SEC. 7. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

4 Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

5 (1) limit the authority of the President under  
6 the International Emergency Economic Powers Act  
7 (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.);

10 (3) require any United States person to provide  
11 goods, services, or technology in violation of such  
12 laws

### 13 SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.

14 In this Act:

15 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
16 TEES.—The term “appropriate congressional com-  
17 mittees” means—

18 (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the  
19 Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Per-  
20 manent Select Committee on Intelligence, and  
21 the Committee on Appropriations of the House  
22 of Representatives; and

23 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations,  
24 the Committee on Commerce, Science, and  
25 Transportation, the Select Committee on Intel-

1                   ligence, and the Committee on Appropriations  
2                   of the Senate.

3                   (2) ESIM TECHNOLOGY.—The term “eSIM  
4                   technology” means embedded subscriber-identity-  
5                   module technology that allows a user to remotely ac-  
6                   tivate cellular service on a compatible device without  
7                   a physical SIM card.

8                   (3) VPN SERVICES.—The term “VPN services”  
9                   means encrypted internet connections designed to  
10                  bypass a government’s censorship and surveillance,  
11                  enabling secure and unrestricted access to the open  
12                  internet.