[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

116TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. ________

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the funding of domestic terrorism, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M. ________ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on ______________________

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A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the funding of domestic terrorism, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) There has been a sharp rise in domestic terrorism incidents. The Federal Bureau of Investigations has acknowledged that racially-motivated violent extremists are responsible for the majority of le-
thal attacks and fatalities perpetrated in the United States by domestic terrorists since 2000.

(2) The Anti-Defamation League’s (ADL) Center on Extremism (COE), determined that, “in 2018, domestic extremists killed at least 50 people in the U.S., a sharp increase from the 37 extremist-related murders documented in 2017 [and] the fourth-deadliest year on record for domestic extremist-related killings since 1970”.

(3) More information on the funding of domestic terrorism is required to understand how financial data and analytical tools can be effectively used to confront this problem.

(4) Any assessment of the options for tracking domestic terrorist funding must also consider the implications for First Amendment rights.

SEC. 2. GAO STUDY ON THE FUNDING OF DOMESTIC TERRORISM.

(a) Study.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out a study of—

(1) how the Government assesses the nature of the domestic terrorism threat, including ties to foreign extremist and terror organizations;
(2) how the Government assesses the funding mechanisms employed by individuals and groups engaging in domestic terrorism;

(3) the Federal agencies responsible for detecting and deterring the funding of domestic terrorism, the extent that these agencies have taken steps to combat such funding, and the authorities and resources by which they do so;

(4) interagency coordination, or lack thereof, to support the efforts described in paragraph (3);

(5) the data and analytical tools available to detect and deter the funding of domestic terrorism and how civil liberties oversight is exercised in their use;

(6) the effectiveness of the tools described in paragraph (5), or lack thereof, in detecting and deterring the funding of domestic terrorism;

(7) the current legal framework for combating the funding of domestic terrorism, and how agencies see the potential advantages and disadvantages of making domestic terrorism a separate Federal crime;

(8) civil rights and civil liberties protections currently included in law and challenges associated with any potential changes to the legal framework; and
(9) any other issues that Comptroller General determines appropriate to support congressional oversight of the funding of domestic terrorism.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 15-month period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall issue a report to the Congress containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under subsection (a).