To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the financing of domestic violent extremists and terrorists, including foreign terrorist-inspired domestic extremists, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to carry out a study on the financing of domestic violent extremists and terrorists, including foreign terrorist-inspired domestic extremists, 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
4 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.
5 This Act may be cited as the “Domestic Terrorism
6 Financing Study Act”.
7 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.
8 The Congress finds the following:
(1) Christopher Wray, the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), has stated in congressional hearings that domestic terrorism is a "persistent and evolving threat", as seen by the open investigations that the Bureau has in all 50 States.

(2) As illustrated through reporting of the Anti-Defamation League, domestic extremists are often self-funded through a diverse set of funding avenues, including membership dues, merchandise, event fees, fraud, sales of personal goods, and donations or crowdfunding from likeminded benefactors.

(3) Unlike foreign terrorist organizations, there is less known about how domestic extremists and terrorists fund their radicalization, recruitment, training, and operations.

(4) There is also a lack of information on the involvement of international groups in providing funding, propaganda, and tactics, techniques, and procedures (TTPs) to domestic extremists, a significant issue, in part, because it helps to determine which statutory tools are available to government authorities and which regulatory obligations are required of financial institutions.

(5) Of the known examples, currently, the Russian Imperial Movement (RIM) and three of its lead-
ers have been designated by the U.S. Department of State as Specially Designated Global Terrorists (SDGTs). There was also a large bitcoin transfer from a French extremist to a number of domestic, extremist-owned wallets, just a month prior to the January 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol.

(6) Per reporting by the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, in addition to being the recipient of extremist resources, the United States is now perceived as the world’s leading exporter of white supremacist ideology.

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

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

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY ON THE FINANCING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENT EXTREMISTS AND TERRORISTS.

(a) Study.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study on the financing of domestic violent extremists and terrorists, including foreign terrorist-inspired domestic extremists, which should consider—
(1) what is known about the primary mechanisms that domestic violent extremists and terrorists use to finance their activities, including the extent to which they rely on online social media, crowdfunding platforms, virtual currencies, and foreign sources to finance their activities;

(2) what is known about any funding that domestic violent extremists and terrorists provide to foreign entities for the purposes of coordination, support, or otherwise furthering their activities;

(3) any data that U.S. agencies collect related to the financing of domestic violent extremists and terrorists, and how such data is used;

(4) the extent to which U.S. agencies coordinate and share information among themselves, with foreign partner agencies, and with the private sector to identify the sources of funding for domestic violent extremists and terrorists;

(5) efforts of financial institutions to identify and report on suspicious financial activity related to the financing of domestic violent extremists and terrorists;

(6) any actions U.S. financial regulators have taken to address the risks to financial institutions of
the financing of domestic violent extremists and ter-
rorists; and

(7) with respect to the considerations described
under paragraphs (1) through (6), any civil rights
and civil liberties protections currently included in
law and challenges associated with any potential
changes to the legal framework to address them.

(b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 18
months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Compt-
troller General of the United States shall report to the
Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of
the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of
the House of Representatives the results of the study re-
quired under subsection (a).