

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—114th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 2418

To authorize the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish university labs for student-developed technology-based solutions for countering online recruitment of violent extremists.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Countering Online Re-
5 cruitment of Violent Extremists Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-
9 TEES.—The term “appropriate Congressional com-
10 mittees” means the Committee on Homeland Secu-
11 rity and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the

1 Committee on Homeland Security of the House of
2 Representatives.

3 (2) CENTER FOR HOMELAND SECURITY.—The
4 term “center for homeland security” means a uni-
5 versity-based center the Secretary of Homeland Se-
6 curity designates under section 308(b)(2) of the
7 Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
8 188(b)(2)).

9 (3) COUNTERING VIOLENT EXTREMISM;
10 CVE.—The terms “countering violent extremism”
11 and “CVE” mean proactive and relevant actions to
12 deter efforts by violent extremists to radicalize, re-
13 cruit, and mobilize followers to violence by providing
14 positive countervailing alternatives to violent extrem-
15 ist recruitment and radicalization.

16 (4) CVE LAB.—The term “CVE Lab” means a
17 physical space and academic program at a center for
18 homeland security designated for participating stu-
19 dents to develop and test technology-based CVE so-
20 lutions.

21 (5) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
22 term “institution of higher education” has the
23 meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher
24 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001).

1 (6) PARTICIPATING STUDENT.—The term “par-
2 ticipating student” means a student participating in
3 a CVE Lab.

4 (7) TECHNOLOGY-BASED CVE SOLUTION.—The
5 term “technology-based CVE solution” means an in-
6 strument developed by a participating student under
7 section 5(b)(1) that—

8 (A) appeals to young consumers of online
9 and social media;

10 (B) counters online recruitment of violent
11 extremists or builds resilience against online
12 violent extremist recruitment amongst partici-
13 pating students’ peers;

14 (C) operates on a technological platform or
15 is technological in nature, including social
16 media campaigns and mobile software applica-
17 tions; and

18 (D) is supported by empirical evidence and
19 incorporates metrics for future assessment.

20 (8) VIOLENT EXTREMISM.—The term “violent
21 extremism” means ideologically motivated inter-
22 national terrorism or domestic terrorism, as those
23 terms are defined in section 2331 of title 18, United
24 States Code.

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds and declares the following:

3 (1) The ability to rapidly disseminate graphic
4 images and ideas to shape the public narrative
5 makes social media a strategic messaging and re-
6 cruitment mechanism for terrorists, insurgent
7 groups, and governments engaged in conflict.

8 (2) The United States Government and its
9 partners around the world have not been effective in
10 using social media to produce alternative narratives
11 to stem terrorist recruitment through social media.

12 (3) Due to the strategic role the Internet plays
13 in recruitment to terrorist violence, online counter-
14 narratives promoted by non-governmental peers are
15 most likely to directly reach and resonate with indi-
16 viduals who seek to become foreign fighters or carry
17 out terrorist attacks.

18 (4) There exists youth-led demand for action-
19 oriented solutions to countering violent extremism,
20 as evidenced by the Youth Action Agenda to Prevent
21 Violent Extremism and Promote Peace, which was
22 produced by young activists at the Global Youth
23 Summit Against Violent Extremism on the margins
24 of the 70th United Nations General Assembly meet-
25 ing in New York, on September 28, 2015.

1 (5) The establishment of university-based labs
2 for students to develop technology-based solutions
3 will enable more innovative and effective alternative
4 narratives to counter violent extremist recruitment
5 online.

6 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF CVE LABS.**

7 In carrying out clause (xv) of section 308(b)(2)(B)
8 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C.
9 188(b)(2)(B)), as added by section 7, the Secretary of
10 Homeland Security, acting through the Under Secretary
11 for Science and Technology and in coordination with the
12 office within the Department of Homeland Security re-
13 sponsible for coordinating the CVE efforts of the Depart-
14 ment of Homeland Security, may—

- 15 (1) establish 1 or more CVE Labs; and
16 (2) reprioritize grants to centers for homeland
17 security to fund each CVE Lab.

18 **SEC. 5. FUNCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS OF CVE LABS.**

19 (a) REQUIREMENTS.—The head of an institution of
20 higher education at which a CVE Lab is established shall
21 ensure that the faculty of the CVE Lab—

- 22 (1) create a curriculum for participating stu-
23 dents to develop and test technology-based CVE so-
24 lutions that—

1 (A) may be drawn from pre-existing cur-
2 ricula or courses at an institution of higher
3 education;

4 (B) incorporates a CVE orientation pro-
5 gram for students participating in the Lab that
6 is informed by cross-cultural communication
7 issues;

8 (C) incorporates technology-based business
9 development curricula; and

10 (D) requires participating students develop
11 a final business plan describing how the tech-
12 nology-based CVE solution would be scaled up
13 for investment and possible deployment by pri-
14 vate sector entities, philanthropic organizations,
15 or Federal, State, local, or tribal agencies;

16 (2) invite Federal Government officials to par-
17 ticipate in the orientation required by paragraph
18 (1)(B);

19 (3) provide each participating student a CVE
20 safety briefing by Federal Government officials dur-
21 ing the program orientation that outlines pre-
22 cautions participating students can take to protect
23 themselves from becoming a target of terrorists; and

24 (4) supervise any deployment of a technology-
25 based CVE solution by a participating student.

1 (b) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF CVE LABS.—The
2 head of an institution of higher education at which a CVE
3 Lab is established shall ensure that the faculty of the CVE
4 Lab, in coordination with the Department of Homeland
5 Security and other appropriate entities including each
6 CVE Lab—

7 (1) develop a framework for participation and
8 support of other programs that encourage students
9 to develop peer-to-peer solutions for CVE;

10 (2) develop a common inventory of research, in
11 conjunction with other university-based centers for
12 homeland security that establish CVE Labs, on core
13 CVE issues to inform CVE Lab curricula in subse-
14 quent years; and

15 (3) identify experts in CVE who can apply the
16 technology-based CVE solutions to target individuals
17 who are susceptible to recruitment to violent extre-
18 mism.

19 (c) ADMINISTRATION OF CVE LAB.—The head of an
20 institution of higher education at which a CVE Lab is es-
21 tablished—

22 (1) may determine the department and faculty
23 of the institution of higher education that will be re-
24 sponsible for administering the CVE Lab and have

1 final approval of who will be participating students
2 at the CVE Lab; and

3 (2) shall ensure that the faculty administering
4 the CVE Lab, additional CVE Lab instructors and
5 advisors, and participating students represent an
6 interdisciplinary cross-section of the institution of
7 higher education, including disciplines not tradition-
8 ally associated with counterterrorism.

9 **SEC. 6. ASSESSMENT AND REPORT.**

10 (a) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
11 on which a CVE Lab is first established, the Comptroller
12 General of the United States shall submit to the Secretary
13 of Homeland Security and the appropriate congressional
14 committees a report regarding the impact of the CVE Lab.

15 (b) ASSESSMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Secu-
16 rity, acting through the Under Secretary for Science and
17 Technology and in coordination with the office within the
18 Department of Homeland Security responsible for coordi-
19 nating the CVE efforts of the Department of Homeland
20 Security, shall—

21 (1) commission an independent third-party as-
22 sessment of the impact of each CVE Lab; and

23 (2) not later than 180 days after the date on
24 which the assessment required under paragraph (1)

1 is completed, provide the assessment to the appro-
2 priate Congressional committees.

3 **SEC. 7. FUNCTIONS OF CENTERS FOR HOMELAND SECUR-**
4 **RITY.**

5 Section 308(b)(2)(B) of the Homeland Security Act
6 of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 188(b)(2)(B)) is amended in section
7 308(b)(2)(B), by adding at the end the following:

8 “(xv) Countering violent extremism.”.

9 **SEC. 8. SUNSET.**

10 Sections 1 through 6 shall expire on the date that
11 is 7 years after the date of enactment of this Act.