

#### 117TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION

# H. R. 990

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require broadcasting stations, providers of cable and satellite television, and online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that political advertisements are not purchased by a foreign national.

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 11, 2021

Mr. GOLDEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

# A BILL

- To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require broadcasting stations, providers of cable and satellite television, and online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that political advertisements are not purchased by a foreign national.
  - 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 "Block Foreign-Funded
  - 5 Political Ads Act".

1	SEC. 2. PREVENTING CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPENDITURES,
2	INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES, AND DIS-
3	BURSEMENTS FOR ELECTIONEERING COM-
4	MUNICATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN
5	THE FORM OF ONLINE ADVERTISING.
6	Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
7	of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121) is amended by adding at the
8	end the following new subsection:
9	"(c) Responsibilities of Broadcast Stations,
10	PROVIDERS OF CABLE AND SATELLITE TELEVISION, AND
11	Online Platforms.—
12	"(1) Responsibilities described.—Each tel-
13	evision or radio broadcast station, provider of cable
14	or satellite television, or online platform shall make
15	reasonable efforts to ensure that communications de-
16	scribed in section 318(a) and made available by such
17	station, provider, or platform are not purchased by
18	a foreign national, directly or indirectly. For pur-
19	poses of the previous sentence, a station, provider,
20	or online platform shall not be considered to have
21	made reasonable efforts under this paragraph in the
22	case of the availability of a communication unless
23	the station, provider, or online platform directly in-
24	quires from the individual or entity making such
25	purchase whether the purchase is to be made by a
26	foreign national, directly or indirectly.

"(2) Special rules for disbursement paid
with credit card.—For purposes of paragraph
(1), a television or radio broadcast station, provider
of cable or satellite television, or online platform
shall be considered to have made reasonable efforts
under such paragraph in the case of a purchase of
the availability of a communication which is made
with a credit card if—

- "(A) the individual or entity making such purchase is required, at the time of making such purchase, to disclose the credit verification value of such credit card; and
- "(B) the billing address associated with such credit card is located in the United States or, in the case of a purchase made by an individual who is a United States citizen living outside of the United States, the individual provides the television or radio broadcast station, provider of cable or satellite television, or online platform with the United States mailing address the individual uses for voter registration purposes.

### "(3) Definitions.—

"(A) Online platform.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'online platform'

1	means any public-facing website, web applica-
2	tion, or digital application (including a social
3	network, ad network, or search engine) which—
4	"(i) sells qualified political advertise-
5	ments; and
6	"(ii) has 50,000,000 or more unique
7	monthly United States visitors or users for
8	a majority of months during the preceding
9	12 months.
10	"(B) QUALIFIED POLITICAL ADVERTISE-
11	MENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the
12	term 'qualified political advertisement' means
13	any advertisement (including search engine
14	marketing, display advertisements, video adver-
15	tisements, native advertisements, and sponsor-
16	ships) that—
17	"(i) is made by or on behalf of a can-
18	didate; or
19	"(ii) communicates a message relating
20	to any political matter of national impor-
21	tance, including—
22	"(I) a candidate;
23	"(II) any election to Federal of-
24	fice; or

1	"(III) a national legislative issue
2	of public importance.".
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