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H. R. 11144

To strengthen protections of Federal Government-supported research and development against foreign government interference and exploitation through increased transparency and ethics disclosures, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 24, 2026

Mr. BABIN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

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A BILL

To strengthen protections of Federal Government-supported research and development against foreign government interference and exploitation through increased transparency and ethics disclosures, 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. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Research Security Act of 2026''.

SEC. 2. CERTAIN DISCLOSURES IN APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AWARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 223 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (42 U.S.C. 6605) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking ''the disclosure;'' and inserting ''the disclosure, and disclose, as applicable—

''(i) all current academic, professional, or institutional appointments of such individual, regardless of remuneration, including appointments to foreign institutions of higher education, foreign enterprises, or foreign government entities;

''(ii) all current appointments and contractual arrangements that are with a foreign country of concern or foreign entity of concern and require the transfer to such country or entity, as the case may be, of non-public or pre-published intellectual property or research data developed through a research and development award;

''(iii) whether, in the three-year period immediately preceding such application,

such individual was a party to a foreign talent recruitment program contract, agreement, or other arrangement, and, if so, information relating to—

''(I) a specification of the name of the foreign institution of higher education, foreign enterprise, or foreign government entity, that was party to such contract, agreement, or other arrangement, as the case may be;

''(II) the nature and duration of such individual's participation with respect to such program; and

''(III) a specification of the compensation, resources, or appointments, if any, such individual received or is expected to receive as a result of such participation; and

''(iv) the foreign travel paid for or reimbursed by a foreign country of concern or foreign entity of concern, for such individual to perform research and development activities;'';

(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c) ACCESSIBILITY.—The Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, acting through the National Science and Technology Council and in coordination with the Director of the National Science Foundation, shall ensure that a common disclosure form for purposes of subsection (a) is accessible to all covered individuals. Completed common disclosure forms shall—

''(1) be available in a secure format to all Federal research agencies and the intelligence community in an interoperable manner; and

''(2) include the persistent identifier associated with the covered individual at issue.'';

(4) in paragraph (1) of subsection (d), as so redesignated—

(A) by striking ''may reject'' and inserting ''shall reject''; and

(B) by striking ''violates'' and inserting ''is a knowing violation of''; and

(5) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesignating paragraph (5) as paragraph (9); and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (4) the following new paragraphs:

''(5) The terms 'foreign country of concern' and 'foreign entity of concern' have the meanings given such terms in section 10638 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19237).

''(6) The term 'foreign talent recruitment program' has the meaning given such term in the memorandum titled 'Guidelines for Federal Research Agencies Regarding Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs' and published by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy on February 14, 2024.

''(7) The term 'intelligence community' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

''(8) The term 'persistent identifier' means a string of characters assigned to a digital object, that satisfies the following requirements:

''(A) Is globally unique, persistent, and machine resolvable.

''(B) Has an associated metadata schema.

''(C) Is utilized to identify only one individual or person.''.

(b) RESEARCH SECURITY PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) ATTESTATION.—

(A) APPLICATION.—A covered institution may not receive a research and development award unless the application by such institution for such award includes an attestation that such institution operates a program at such institution to carry out policies for the following:

(i) Protecting research data, laboratory systems, and intellectual property from unauthorized access, exfiltration, or exploitation, in accordance with applicable standards of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), including NIST Special Publication 800–171 (or a successor standard).

(ii) Requiring a covered individual of such institution to report to such institution information relating to travel by such individual to a country identified by the Director of National Intelligence as posing a risk of foreign government interference, before such individual so travels.

(iii) Storing such information for not less than two years after the date on which such information is so reported.

(iv) Making such stored information available to Federal research agencies, the intelligence community, and Congress.

(v) Requiring such individual to receive from such institution a security briefing regarding such travel, before such individual so travels.

(vi) Requiring such individual to report to such institution, not later than 30 days after the conclusion of such travel, information relating to the activities, if any, carried out by such individual during such travel that might implicate research security.

(vii) Requiring such individual to annually complete research security training that satisfies the following requirements:

(I) Meets the guidelines under subsection (b) of section 10634 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19234).

(II) Includes information regarding the following:

(aa) Disclosures under section 223 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (42 U.S.C. 6605).

(bb) The importance of research security and the risks of foreign government interference and exploitation.

(cc) Conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment.

(dd) The risks associated with foreign talent recruitment programs.

(ee) Procedures for reporting a suspected violation of such a policy.

(B) POST-APPLICATION.—Each year for which a covered institution receives from a Federal research agency a research and development award, such institution shall submit to such agency an attestation that such institution

operates a program described in subparagraph (A).

(C) SECURITY BRIEFING GUIDANCE.—In carrying out security briefings under clause (v) of subparagraph (A), a covered institution may seek from the Secretary of State guidance regarding such a briefing.

(2) ASSESSMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than triennially, a covered institution shall conduct an assessment of such institution's program described in subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1), that is based on the criteria published pursuant to clause (ii) of subparagraph (B).

(B) CRITERIA.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall carry out the following:

(i) Develop in consultation with Federal research agencies and the research community standardized criteria for assessments under subparagraph (A).

(ii) Publish in the Federal Register and on a publicly available website of the Office such criteria.

(C) REQUEST.—A Federal research agency may condition a covered institution's receipt of a research and development award on such agency receiving a copy of such institution's most recent assessment under subparagraph (A).

(3) AGENCY IMPLEMENTATION PLANS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of a Federal research agency shall submit to the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a plan regarding how such head will enforce the requirements under this section for covered institutions, and such plan shall include information relating to the process of such agency for reviewing attestations under paragraph (1).

(c) PROHIBITIONS.—

(1) MITIGATION AND MANAGEMENT MEASURES.—A Federal research agency may in accord-

ance with applicable guidance issued by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy apply mitigation and management measures to address past participation by a covered individual in a foreign talent recruitment program, as specified in section 10633 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19233).

(2) UNDISCLOSED INFORMATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—If a Federal research agency determines that a covered individual has failed to make a disclosure required under section 223 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (42 U.S.C. 6605), such agency may prohibit such individual from serving as a peer reviewer with respect to applications for research and development awards from such agency.

(B) TERMINATION OF PROHIBITION.—If a covered individual to which a prohibition applies under subparagraph (A) makes the disclosure for which such prohibition was imposed, the Federal research agency at issue may terminate such prohibition.

(C) CERTIFICATION.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, a Federal research agency shall carry out the following:

(i) Establish a policy that requires a peer reviewer of research funded by such agency to annually certify that such reviewer is aware of subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(ii) Establish in the peer review process for applications for research and development awards from such agency a procedure for reviewing and managing conflicts of interest and conflicts of commitment disclosed pursuant to section 223 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (42 U.S.C. 6605).

(3) FOREIGN APPOINTMENTS.—A covered individual may not hold an appointment or have a contractual arrangement that is with a foreign country of concern or foreign entity of concern and requires the transfer to such country or entity, as the case may be, of non-public or pre-published intellectual property or research data developed through a re-

search and development award from a Federal research agency, unless such appointment or arrangement, as the case may be, is approved by such agency.

(4) PERSON OR ENTITY OF CONCERN.—Section 10636 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19235) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting ''any research and development award or'' after ''in''.

(5) COVERED INSTITUTION CONTRACTING.—A covered institution may not receive a research and development award if such institution is contracted with a foreign entity of concern for federally funded research.

(d) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy, in coordination with Federal research agencies, shall establish a demonstration program to work with covered institutions to develop a disclosure process for postdoctoral scholars, students, and visiting scholars that, with support by a foreign country of concern or a foreign entity of concern, contrib-

uted to a covered individual's federally funded research and development activities.

(2) CONTENT.—The development of a disclosure process under this subsection shall be consistent with the requirements described in subsection (c) of section 223 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (42 U.S.C. 6605); relating to the accessibility of a common disclosure form), as inserted by subsection (a), except that the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy may consider requiring the submission of additional information by postdoctoral scholars, students, and visiting scholars who are required to submit such a common disclosure form.

(e) REPORT ON PROGRESS TO ADDRESS UNDUE FOREIGN INFLUENCE.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy shall submit to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, in a manner that does not compromise national security, a report on actions taken by the Director to—

(1) address cases of noncompliance with disclosure requirements or research misconduct, related to undue foreign influence, including—

(A) a specification of the number of potential noncompliance cases investigated by a Federal research agency, or reported to a Federal research agency, including relating to undisclosed research support, undisclosed conflicts of interest or conflicts of commitment, and peer review violations;

(B) a specification of the number of such cases referred to the Offices of Inspectors General of Federal research agencies, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, or other law enforcement agencies;

(C) a description of enforcement actions taken for such noncompliance or such misconduct; and

(D) any other relevant information; and

(2) prevent, address, and mitigate instances of such noncompliance or such misconduct.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ''covered individual'' has the meaning given such term in sec-

tion 10638 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19237).

(2) COVERED INSTITUTION.—The term ''covered institution'' means an institution of higher education, research center, or nonprofit research institution, that receives more than $50,000,000 per year in total Federal research funding.

(3) FEDERAL RESEARCH AGENCY.—The term ''Federal research agency'' has the meaning given such term in section 223 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (42 U.S.C. 6605).

(4) FOREIGN COUNTRY OF CONCERN; FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The terms ''foreign country of concern'' and ''foreign entity of concern'' have the meanings given such terms in section 10638 of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19237).

(5) FOREIGN TALENT RECRUITMENT PROGRAM.—The term ''foreign talent recruitment program'' has the meaning given such term in the memorandum titled ''Guidelines for Federal Research Agencies Regarding Foreign Talent Recruitment Programs'' and published by the Director of

the Office of Science and Technology Policy on February 14, 2024.

(6) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ''intelligence community'' has the meaning given such term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(7) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AWARD.—The term ''research and development award'' has the meaning given such term in section 223 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (42 U.S.C. 6605).

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