

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4691

To require the Department of State’s Bureau of Counterterrorism to develop and maintain written counterterrorism strategies for countries and regions where there is a significant terrorist threat or ongoing United States counterterrorism engagement.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2025

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Foreign Affairs

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## A BILL

To require the Department of State’s Bureau of Counterterrorism to develop and maintain written counterterrorism strategies for countries and regions where there is a significant terrorist threat or ongoing United States counterterrorism engagement.

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 “Responsive Counterter-  
5 rorism Policy Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. COUNTERTERRORISM STRATEGIES.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall  
2           direct the Department of State’s Bureau of Counter-  
3           terrorism to develop and maintain a written counter-  
4           terrorism (CT) strategy for each country or region  
5           where there is a significant terrorist threat or ongo-  
6           ing United States CT engagement in order to en-  
7           hance the effectiveness, coordination, and account-  
8           ability of United States CT policy.

9           (2) PURPOSE.—Each strategy required by this  
10          subsection is intended to be distinct from the De-  
11          partment’s annual Country Reports on Terrorism  
12          and is to serve as a forward-looking, operational  
13          planning document that is specific to the Bureau of  
14          Counterterrorism.

15         (b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—

16                 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each strategy required by  
17                 subsection (a) shall—

18                         (A) identify the specific threats posed, ar-  
19                         ticulate clear objectives, outline coordinated ac-  
20                         tions with interagency partners and inter-  
21                         national partners, and describe metrics for as-  
22                         sessing progress and success;

23                         (B) specifically describe how coordination  
24                         with such partners will be carried out, including

1 clearly defined roles, responsibilities, and mech-  
2 anisms for collaboration;

3 (C) take into account local political, eco-  
4 nomic, and social dynamics and should align  
5 with broader United States foreign policy goals;  
6 and

7 (D) ensure that the Bureau of Counterter-  
8 rorism shall serve as the lead entity with re-  
9 spect to such strategies.

10 (2) INTERAGENCY AND INTERNATIONAL PART-  
11 NERS.—For the purposes of paragraph (1)(A)—

12 (A) interagency partners shall include all  
13 relevant bureaus, offices, and components of  
14 United States Government departments and  
15 agencies that contribute to CT efforts in any  
16 capacity; and

17 (B) international partners shall include all  
18 foreign government entities and local actors  
19 that are actively engaged in, and demonstrably  
20 committed to, CT efforts within their respective  
21 countries or regions.

22 (3) REFERENCES.—Any references to other  
23 United States Government department or agency or  
24 international partner is intended to articulate the  
25 Bureau of Counterterrorism’s understanding of on-

1 going efforts, coordination mechanisms, and areas of  
2 engagement, and not to imply shared authorship or  
3 responsibility for any strategic documents.

4 (4) UPDATES.—Each strategy required by sub-  
5 section (a) shall be reviewed and updated on an an-  
6 nual basis, or more frequently if significant changes  
7 in threat dynamics or policy priorities occur. Each  
8 such update should incorporate lessons learned and  
9 reflect changes in operational context or strategic  
10 priorities.

11 (c) CONGRESSIONAL BRIEFINGS.—

12 (1) INITIAL BRIEFING.—Not later than 90 days  
13 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Bu-  
14 reau of Counterterrorism shall brief Congress on the  
15 countries and regions for which it plans to develop  
16 the strategies required by subsection (a), including  
17 the criteria used to prioritize such strategies.

18 (2) ANNUAL BRIEFINGS.—The Bureau of  
19 Counterterrorism shall brief Congress annually on  
20 the development, implementation, and updates to the  
21 strategies required by subsection (a), including how  
22 the strategies inform programmatic funding and dip-  
23 lomatic engagement.

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