

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5704

To repeal the Smith-Mundt Modernization Act of 2013 and to prohibit domestic propagandization by the Federal Government.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 8, 2025

Mr. MASSIE (for himself and Mr. PERRY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To repeal the Smith-Mundt Modernization Act of 2013 and to prohibit domestic propagandization by the Federal Government.

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 “Repeal the Smith-
5 Mundt Modernization Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. REPEAL SMITH-MUNDT DOMESTIC**
7 **PROPAGANDIZATION.**

8 (a) UNITED STATES INFORMATION AND EDU-
9 CATIONAL EXCHANGE ACT OF 1948.—Section 501 of the

1 United States Information and Educational Exchange Act
2 of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1461) is amended to read as follows:

3 **“SEC. 501. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.**

4 “(a) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABROAD.—
5 The Secretary of State and the Chief Executive Officer
6 of the United States Agency for Global Media (USAGM)
7 are authorized to provide for the preparation and dissemi-
8 nation abroad of information about the United States, its
9 people, and its policies, through press, publications, radio,
10 motion pictures, the internet, and other information
11 media, and through information centers and instructors
12 abroad, except that such dissemination may not include
13 the use of social media accounts, websites, or podcasts
14 other than official platforms maintained by the Depart-
15 ment of State or USAGM for purposes of foreign dissemi-
16 nation.

17 “(b) ABILITY TO REVIEW INFORMATION DOMESTI-
18 CALLY.—

19 “(1) Any materials produced under subsection
20 (a) shall, upon request, be made available in the
21 English language, at all reasonable times following
22 their release abroad, for examination at the Depart-
23 ment of State or the United States Agency for Glob-
24 al Media, as appropriate, by representatives of
25 United States press associations, newspapers, maga-

1 zines, radio systems, and stations, and by Members
2 of Congress. Except as provided in subsection (c),
3 such materials may not be disseminated within the
4 United States, except that Members of Congress
5 may use such materials in the exercise of their offi-
6 cial oversight functions.

7 “(2) No funds authorized to be appropriated to
8 the Department of State or the United States Agen-
9 cy for Global Media, or its component networks,
10 shall be used for the purpose of influencing public
11 opinion or propagandizing in the United States.

12 “(c) ARCHIVAL OF RECORDS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State and
14 the Chief Executive Officer of the United States
15 Agency for Global Media shall make available to the
16 Archivist of the United States any materials pro-
17 duced under subsection (a). Such materials shall be
18 maintained by the Archivist and made accessible to
19 the public only for examination in a format that per-
20 mits viewing but not reproduction or redistribu-
21 tion—

22 “(A) beginning on the date that is 20
23 years after the date on which such material was
24 initially disseminated abroad; or

1 “(B) in the case of material that was pre-
2 pared but never disseminated abroad, beginning
3 on the date that is 20 years after the date on
4 which such material was prepared.

5 “(2) RESTRICTION ON DOMESTIC DISSEMINA-
6 TION.—Any materials produced under subsection
7 (a)—

8 “(A) may not be distributed domestically
9 by the Archivist before the expiration of the 20-
10 year period described in paragraph (1); and

11 “(B) any materials made accessible by the
12 Archivist after such period, shall bear a clear
13 and permanent identifier, watermark, or dis-
14 claimer indicating—

15 “(i) the United States Government
16 entity responsible for its production;

17 “(ii) the foreign country or region for
18 which the material was originally prepared
19 or disseminated; and

20 “(iii) the purpose or program under
21 which the material was produced, if appli-
22 cable.

23 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ARCHIVIST.—
24 The Archivist—

1 “(A) shall be the official custodian of the
2 material described in paragraph (1);

3 “(B) shall promulgate regulations to—

4 “(i) facilitate public examination of
5 such materials in accordance with para-
6 graph (1); and

7 “(ii) govern the release of such mate-
8 rials in accordance with paragraph (2), in-
9 cluding requirements that any person seek-
10 ing such release—

11 “(I) has secured all necessary
12 United States rights and licenses; and

13 “(II) has paid a fee, in accord-
14 ance with section 2116(c) of title 44,
15 United States Code, sufficient to
16 cover the costs incurred by the Archi-
17 vist in providing such materials; and

18 “(C) shall ensure that all fees collected
19 under subparagraph (B)(ii)(II) are deposited
20 into, administered, and expended as part of the
21 National Archives Trust Fund.

22 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
23 tion may be construed to require the Secretary of State
24 or the Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency
25 for Global Media to make material disseminated abroad

1 available in any format other than in the format dissemi-
2 nated abroad.”.

3 (b) FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATIONS ACT,
4 FISCAL YEARS 1986 AND 1987.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 208 of the Foreign
6 Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1986 and
7 1987 (22 U.S.C. 1461–1a) is amended to read as
8 follows:

9 **“SEC. 208. BAN ON DOMESTIC DISTRIBUTION OF PROGRAM**
10 **MATERIAL.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

12 “(1) USE OF FUNDS.—No funds authorized to
13 be appropriated to the Department of State or the
14 United States Agency for Global Media (USAGM),
15 or any of its component networks, may be used to
16 influence public opinion in the United States.

17 “(2) RESTRICTION ON DOMESTIC DISTRIBU-
18 TION.—No program material prepared by USAGM
19 may be distributed in the United States, except as
20 provided in section 501 of the United States Infor-
21 mation and Educational Exchange Act of 1948 (22
22 U.S.C. 1461).

23 “(3) TRANSPARENCY EXCEPTION.—Nothing in
24 this subsection shall be construed to prohibit or
25 delay the Department of State or USAGM from pro-

1 viding factual information about their operations,
2 policies, or programs, or from making such informa-
3 tion available to members of the media, the public,
4 or Congress, in accordance with other applicable law.

5 “(b) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this
6 section may be construed—

7 “(1) to apply to programs carried out pursuant
8 to the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange
9 Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.); or

10 “(2) to prohibit any employee of USAGM from
11 responding to inquiries from members of the public
12 about USAGM operations, policies, or programs.”.

13 (2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of con-
14 tents for the Foreign Relations Authorization Act,
15 Fiscal Years 1986 and 1987 (22 U.S.C. 1461–1a)
16 is amended by striking the item relating to section
17 208 and inserting the following:

“Sec. 208 Ban on domestic distribution of program material.”.

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