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# H.R. 3654 — Combat Terrorist Use of Social Media Act of 2015, as amended (Rep. Poe, R-TX)

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## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on under a suspension on December 15, 2015, which requires 2/3 majority for passage

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H.R. 3654](#) would require the President to submit a report to Congress on U.S. strategy to combat terrorists' and terrorist organizations' use of social media.

## COST:

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is not available.

Rule 28 (a)(1) of [Rules of the House Republican Conference for the 114th Congress](#) states that the Republican Leader shall not schedule, or request to have scheduled, any bill or resolution for consideration under suspension of the Rules which fails to include a cost estimate.

## CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

## DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H.R. 3654 would require the President to submit a report to Congress that would include: (1) an evaluation of what role social media plays in radicalization in the United States and elsewhere; (2) an analysis of how terrorists and terrorist organizations are using social media; (3) a summary of the federal government's efforts to disrupt and counter the use of social media by terrorists and terrorist organizations, an evaluation of the success of such efforts, and recommendations for improvement; (4) an analysis of how social media is being used for counter-radicalization and counter-propaganda purposes, irrespective of whether or not such efforts are made by the federal government; (5) an assessment of the value of social media posts by terrorists and terrorist organizations to law enforcement; and (6) an overview of social media training available to law enforcement and intelligence personnel that enables such personnel to understand and combat the use of social media by terrorists and terrorist organizations. The report would be submitted in an unclassified format, but may include a classified annex.

The President would additionally be required to submit to Congress a comprehensive strategy to counter terrorists' and terrorist organizations' use of social media as committed to in the President's 2011 ["Strategic Implementation Plan for Empowering Local Partners to Prevent Violent Extremism in the United States"](#).

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

H.R. 3654 was introduced on September 30, 2015 and was referred to the House Committees on Foreign Affairs, Judiciary, and Intelligence (Permanent Select). The bill was reported amended by unanimous consent by the House Foreign Affairs Committee on December 9, 2015.

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

A Statement of Administration Policy is not available.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

According to the sponsor: "Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following: Article I, Section 8, Clause 18." A specific enumerating clause was not included.

# H. Res. 536 — Supporting freedom of the press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemning violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to freedom of speech (Rep. Sires, D-NJ)

CONTACT: [Nicholas Rodman](#), 202-226-8576

## FLOOR SCHEDULE:

Scheduled for consideration on December 15, 2015 suspension of the rules, which requires 2/3 vote for passage.

## TOPLINE SUMMARY:

[H. Res. 536](#) would support freedom of the press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemn violations of press freedom and violence against journalists, bloggers, and individuals exercising their right to free speech.

## COST:

No Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimate is available.

## CONSERVATIVE CONCERNS:

There are no substantive concerns regarding this bill.

- **Expand the Size and Scope of the Federal Government?** No.
- **Encroach into State or Local Authority?** No.
- **Delegate Any Legislative Authority to the Executive Branch?** No.
- **Contain Earmarks/Limited Tax Benefits/Limited Tariff Benefits?** No.

## DETAILED SUMMARY AND ANALYSIS:

H. Res. 536 would clarify that the House of Representatives: (1) supports a free press in Latin America and the Caribbean and condemns violations of press freedom and violence against journalists; (2) urges countries in the region to implement recommendations from the Organization of American States' [Office of the Special Rapporteur for Freedom of Expression](#) to its member states; (3) urges countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to be vocal in condemning violations of press freedom, violence against journalists, and the culture of impunity that leads to self-censorship; (4) urges countries in the Western Hemisphere to uphold the principles outlined in the [Inter-American Democratic Charter](#) and urges countries in the region to stand by the charter they are a party to; and (5) urges the United States Agency for International Development and the Department of State to assist the media in closed societies to promote an open and free press.

According to the findings of the bill, there have been multiple recent violations of freedom of the press rights in several countries in the Western Hemisphere. In 2014, Cuban authorities detained 1,817 members of civil society, 31 of whom were independent journalists. These journalists have faced sustained harassment, including detention and physical abuse from the Castro regime. More information on freedom of the press in Cuba can be found [here](#) from Freedom House.

## COMMITTEE ACTION:

H. Res. 536 was introduced on November 19, 2015 and was referred to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs. The resolution was then ordered to be reported in the nature of a substitute and amended by unanimous consent on December 9, 2015.

**ADMINISTRATION POSITION:**

No Statement of Administration Policy is available at this time.

**CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY:**

No Constitutional Authority Statement is available.

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