

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7942

To establish the Open Translation Center, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 11, 2024

Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself and Mr. GALLAGHER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

---

## A BILL

To establish the Open Translation Center, and for other purposes.

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 “Open Translation Cen-  
5       ter Act of 2024”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds the following:

8               (1) The success of United States foreign policy  
9       depends on the ability to accurately perceive and un-  
10       derstand other countries’ foreign and domestic poli-  
11       cies.

1           (2) Open source materials published by the  
2 People’s Republic of China and other nations offer  
3 a uniquely valuable window into the politics, policy,  
4 ideology, intentions, and activities of those countries.

5           (3) A lack of foreign language speakers greatly  
6 hinders United States policymakers, journalists, aca-  
7 demics, students, and others’ ability to understand  
8 the People’s Republic of China and other nations  
9 and governments.

10          (4) During the Cold War, the Foreign Broad-  
11 cast Information Service provided translations and  
12 open source analysis that nourished generations of  
13 diplomats, journalists, academics, students, and oth-  
14 ers.

15          (5) Today, a public translation and analysis or-  
16 ganization is needed to support the development of  
17 United States foreign policy and to enrich public un-  
18 derstanding.

19 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

20          There is established a federally funded research and  
21 development center to be known as the “Open Translation  
22 Center” (referred to in this section as “OTC”).

23 **SEC. 4. INCORPORATION.**

24          (a) IN GENERAL.—OTC shall be—

1           (1) administered as a separate entity by an or-  
2           organization managing a federally funded research and  
3           development center on the date of the enactment of  
4           this Act; or

5           (2) incorporated as a nonprofit membership  
6           corporation.

7           (b) BOARD.—OTC shall be headed by a board that  
8           consists of five members to be appointed as follows:

9           (1) Two members shall be appointed by the  
10          Secretary of State.

11          (2) Two members shall be appointed by the Di-  
12          rector of National Intelligence.

13          (3) One member shall be appointed by the Reg-  
14          ister of Copyrights.

15          (c) TERM; QUALIFICATIONS.—

16          (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member appointed to  
17          the board of OTC in accordance with subsection (b)  
18          shall serve for a term of 3 years, and may be re-ap-  
19          pointed to consecutive terms.

20          (2) INITIAL TERM.—Notwithstanding sub-  
21          section (c), the initial term of one the two members  
22          first appointed by the Secretary of State in accord-  
23          ance with subsection (b) and one of the two mem-  
24          bers first so appointed by the Director of National  
25          Intelligence shall be 2 years.

1           (3) QUALIFICATIONS.—Members of the board  
2 shall be appointed from among individuals with ex-  
3 pertise in translation, publishing, domestic and  
4 international copyright law, media, foreign lan-  
5 guages, area studies, or international relations, and  
6 shall make all decisions independently from the  
7 United States Government. No member of the board  
8 may be an employee or official of the United States  
9 during the term served by such member.

10          (d) CHAIR.—The Chair of the board of OTC shall  
11 be elected from among the members of the board.

12 **SEC. 5. PURPOSE AND MISSION.**

13          The purpose and mission of OTC is the following:

14           (1) The translation, analysis, and public dis-  
15 semination of foreign language government and  
16 other documents from designated countries, for the  
17 purposes of enhancing the understanding of such  
18 countries' governments, governing organizations,  
19 militaries, economies, and cultures.

20           (2) To provide proper context and explanations  
21 of translated foreign-language material to enhance  
22 the ability of consumers to understand the meaning  
23 and significance of such translated material.

24           (3) To strive to make as much translated for-  
25 eign-language material publicly available as possible,

1 and to provide summaries of important foreign-lan-  
2 guage material that cannot be made public.

3 (4) To train and develop exceptional analysts  
4 and linguists with specialization regarding des-  
5 ignated countries.

6 **SEC. 6. DUTIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—In furtherance of the purpose and  
8 mission specified in section 5, OTC shall—

9 (1) translate into the English language docu-  
10 ments and information from designated countries;

11 (2) provide analyses, summaries, and important  
12 context for material translated pursuant to para-  
13 graph (1), and other untranslated material, includ-  
14 ing—

15 (A) biographical sketches and information  
16 on important leaders;

17 (B) descriptions and background on polit-  
18 ical processes, important bodies, companies,  
19 economic systems, and military weapons sys-  
20 tems and doctrines;

21 (C) definitions and analysis of important  
22 concepts and phrases;

23 (D) information regarding changes over  
24 time in the policies and intentions of govern-

1           ments, militaries, and governing organizations;  
2           and

3                   (E) other issues that are of significance for  
4           understanding designated countries;

5           (3) cooperate with other relevant Federal agen-  
6           cies regarding any effort consistent with such pur-  
7           pose and mission;

8           (4) make available on a publicly accessible  
9           website—

10                   (A) all analyses and summaries created  
11           pursuant to subsection (a)(2); and

12                   (B) except for any material that OTC de-  
13           termines not to make available pursuant to sub-  
14           section (b)(1)(F), all translated materials under  
15           subsection (a); and

16           (5) with respect to translated materials that  
17           OTC determines not to make available pursuant to  
18           subsection (b)(1)(F)—

19                   (A) to the extent possible, provide such  
20           materials free of charge to all United States  
21           Government employees, Members of Congress,  
22           and congressional staff, as well as to organiza-  
23           tions and individuals who have relevant con-  
24           tracts or grants with the United States Govern-  
25           ment or any part thereof; or

1 (B) as appropriate, provide summaries and  
2 analyses of such materials to the persons de-  
3 scribed in subparagraph (A).

4 (b) METHODOLOGY.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section  
6 and section 5, OTC shall—

7 (A) establish the capabilities to acquire, re-  
8 tain, train, and develop exceptional analytical  
9 and linguistic expertise in designated countries  
10 and designated languages;

11 (B) use software, programs, artificial intel-  
12 ligence, and other technologies to ensure timely  
13 translations;

14 (C) seek input from technical, regional,  
15 and subject matter experts from a wide range  
16 of relevant disciplines, to review, provide feed-  
17 back, and evaluate translations and analyses;

18 (D) maximize cooperation with the public  
19 and private sectors in the United States, includ-  
20 ing Federal agencies, as well as with United  
21 States allies and partners, to maximize effi-  
22 ciencies, acquire source materials, and eliminate  
23 duplication of efforts;

1 (E) select materials, such as the materials  
2 described in paragraph (2), to translate and  
3 analyze on the basis of—

4 (i) the significance of the material for  
5 United States policymakers as well as for  
6 journalists, academics, and the general  
7 public; and

8 (ii) the ability of such material to en-  
9 hance the understanding of the politics,  
10 policies, intentions, ideologies, militaries,  
11 businesses, technologies, science, or cul-  
12 tures of designated countries; and

13 (F) in selecting material to translate under  
14 subparagraph (E) and in making material avail-  
15 able under subsection (a)(4), consider whether  
16 the translation or dissemination of such mate-  
17 rial would be consistent with domestic and  
18 international commitments on copyright, includ-  
19 ing title 17, United States Code.

20 (2) EXAMPLES OF MATERIALS TO BE TRANS-  
21 LATED.—The materials described in this paragraph  
22 are the following materials from a designated coun-  
23 try:



1 (A) Official and unofficial government,  
2 governing organization, and military documents  
3 and reports.

4 (B) Speeches of relevant government, polit-  
5 ical, governing organization, and military offi-  
6 cials.

7 (C) Official and semiofficial government,  
8 governing organization, and military journals.

9 (D) News articles and commentary from  
10 government, governing organization, or other  
11 quasi-official sources.

12 (E) Documents and other information by  
13 state-owned businesses and entities.

14 (F) Other information, including internet  
15 and social media posts.

16 (c) COPYRIGHTS.—

17 (1) TRANSLATIONS DEEMED GOVERNMENT  
18 WORKS.—A work prepared by an employee or con-  
19 tractor of the OTC for the purpose of the dissemina-  
20 tion of such work by OTC shall be deemed a work  
21 of the United States Government under section  
22 105(a) of title 17, United States Code.

23 (2) NO LESS FAVORABLE TREATMENT.—In ac-  
24 cordance with the Agreement on Trade-Related As-  
25 pects of Intellectual Property Rights of the World

1 Trade Organization, the Berne Convention for the  
2 Protection of Literary and Artistic Works, other  
3 World Intellectual Property Organization regulations  
4 and treaties, and other relevant international trea-  
5 ties and agreements, OTC shall treat foreign mate-  
6 rial no less favorably than national materials are  
7 treated for purpose of copyrights.

8 (d) LIMITATION.—OTC may not publish any trans-  
9 lation until such translation has been reviewed and ap-  
10 proved for accuracy by OTC.

11 **SEC. 7. COOPERATION AND CONSULTATION.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the duties de-  
13 scribed in section 6, OTC may consult and cooperate  
14 with—

15 (1) relevant Federal agencies and grantees of  
16 the U.S. Agency for Global Media, regarding any ef-  
17 fort consistent with the purposes of this Act, includ-  
18 ing—

- 19 (A) collecting source material;  
20 (B) avoiding duplication of effort;  
21 (C) details of employees; and  
22 (D) training; and

23 (2) other relevant stakeholders, including—

- 24 (A) nonprofit research institutes;  
25 (B) institutions of higher education; and

1 (C) media organizations.

2 (b) FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS.—OTC is authorized to  
3 consult and cooperate with any foreign government begin-  
4 ning on the date that is 14 days after—

5 (1) the Secretary of State certifies that it is in  
6 the national interest for OTC to cooperate and con-  
7 sult with that foreign government; and

8 (2) the Secretary of State provides to the rel-  
9 evant congressional committees such certification.

10 **SEC. 8. SPONSORSHIP.**

11 (a) SPONSORS.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall  
13 be the primary sponsor of OTC.

14 (2) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary of State may  
15 enter into agreements with other relevant Federal  
16 agencies to provide additional sponsors of OTC.

17 (3) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State  
18 shall notify the relevant congressional committees of  
19 any additional sponsors for OTC not later than 15  
20 days after entering into an agreement under para-  
21 graph (2).

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-  
23 gress that the Secretary of State should enter into a spon-  
24 sorship agreement pursuant to subsection (a)(2) with the  
25 Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

1 (c) AGREEMENT.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days  
3 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
4 retary of State shall seek to enter into a sponsoring  
5 agreement with respect to OTC that requires OTC  
6 to carry out the duties described in sections 5 and  
7 6.

8 (2) CONSISTENCY WITH REQUIREMENTS PRE-  
9 SCRIBED BY ADMINISTRATOR FOR FEDERAL PRO-  
10 CUREMENT POLICY.—The Administrator for Federal  
11 Procurement Policy shall prescribe general require-  
12 ments for the sponsoring agreement entered into  
13 under paragraph (1).

14 **SEC. 9. DEFINITIONS.**

15 For the purposes of this Act:

16 (1) The term “governing organization” means  
17 any national body separate from a foreign govern-  
18 ment that maintains ultimate control over such gov-  
19 ernment, including political parties that exercise  
20 functions normally reserved for governments.

21 (2) The term “designated countries” means—

22 (A) the People’s Republic of China; and

23 (B) other countries as determined by the  
24 board established under section 4(b), in con-  
25 sultation with the Secretary of State.

1           (3) The term “relevant congressional commit-  
2       tees” means—

3           (A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and  
4       the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence  
5       of the House of Representatives; and

6           (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations  
7       and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the  
8       Senate.

9           (4) The term “designated languages” means—

10          (A) languages identified as critical lan-  
11       guages by the Department of State’s Critical  
12       Language Scholarship Program; and

13          (B) other languages as determined by the  
14       board established pursuant to section 4, in con-  
15       sultation with the Secretary of State.

16 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

17       There are authorized to be appropriated for OTC—

18           (1) \$85,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

19           (2) \$80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
20       through 2028; and

21           (3) such sums as may be necessary for each fis-  
22       cal year thereafter.

○