

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4515

To combat foreign terrorist acquisition of unmanned aerial systems, and
for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 11, 2024

Mr. ROMNEY (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To combat foreign terrorist acquisition of unmanned aerial
systems, 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 “Combating Foreign
5 Terrorist Drones Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Foreign terrorist organizations, including al
9 Qaeda, the Islamic State, and groups backed by Iran
10 such as the Houthis, have used unmanned aerial

1 systems to commit violence and to conduct attacks
2 against members of the Armed Forces and interests
3 of the United States overseas.

4 (2) Since its inception in 2014, the Islamic
5 State has used commercially-available unmanned
6 aerial systems, including Chinese-manufactured
7 drones.

8 (3) In 2023, the United Kingdom arrested an
9 individual for designing a three-dimensional printed
10 drone for the Islamic State to deliver chemical weap-
11 ons.

12 (4) According to public reporting, Iranian-
13 backed terrorist organizations and proxy militias
14 have further increased the frequency of unmanned
15 aerial system attacks against the Armed Forces and
16 interests of the United States in the wake of the Oc-
17 tober 7, 2023, attacks by Hamas in Israel.

18 (5) On or around October 17, 2023, 21 mem-
19 bers of the Armed Forces sustained injuries from
20 drone and rocket attacks by Iran-sponsored proxy
21 groups against military bases of the United States
22 in Syria and Iraq.

23 (6) On January 28, 2024, three members of the
24 Armed Forces were killed and more than 40 mem-
25 bers of the Armed Forces were injured in an un-

1 manned aerial system attack, committed by groups
2 backed by Iran, in Jordan.

3 (7) In February 2024, the Defense Intelligence
4 Agency confirmed the use by the Houthis of un-
5 manned aerial systems from Iran to conduct attacks,
6 including against civilian targets and maritime infra-
7 structure.

8 (8) According to United States Central Com-
9 mand, the threat posed by unmanned aerial systems,
10 “coupled with” the “lack of dependable, networked
11 capability to counter them is the most concerning
12 tactical development since the rise” of improvised
13 explosive devices in Iraq.

14 (9) Foreign terrorist organization access to and
15 use of unmanned aerial systems presents national
16 security threats to the United States, its personnel,
17 and its interests abroad, and it is critical that the
18 Department of Defense acts effectively to interrupt
19 the supply of such systems to foreign terrorist orga-
20 nizations.

21 **SEC. 3. INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT OF FOREIGN TER-**
22 **RORIST ORGANIZATION ACQUISITION OF UN-**
23 **MANNED AERIAL SYSTEMS.**

24 (a) INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT REQUIRED.—Not
25 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of

1 this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall submit to the con-
2 gressional defense committees an intelligence assessment
3 of foreign terrorist organization acquisition of unmanned
4 aerial systems.

5 (b) CONTENTS.—The assessment required by sub-
6 section (a) shall cover the following:

7 (1) Methods by which foreign terrorist organi-
8 zations acquire unmanned aerial systems, such as
9 through commercial purchase, diversion, illicit manu-
10 facture, trafficking, state-sponsored supply, or theft
11 or recovery from nation-state operators.

12 (2) Identification of suppliers, networks, routes,
13 production facilities, and other key nodes that facili-
14 tate the acquisition of unmanned aerial systems by
15 foreign terrorist organizations.

16 (3) An evaluation of the degree of coordination
17 and intelligence sharing with allies and partners of
18 the United States to prevent foreign terrorist organi-
19 zations from acquiring unmanned aerial systems.

20 (4) Recommendations for legislative or adminis-
21 trative action to limit or combat foreign terrorist or-
22 ganization acquisition of unmanned aerial systems.

23 (c) FORM.—The assessment submitted pursuant to
24 subsection (a) shall be submitted in classified form.

25 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) The term “congressional defense commit-
2 tees” has the meaning given such term in section
3 101(a) of title 10, United States Code.

4 (2) The term “foreign terrorist organization”
5 means any organization or individual designated as
6 a—

7 (A) foreign terrorist organization by the
8 Secretary of State pursuant to section 219 of
9 the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
10 1189); or

11 (B) specially designated global terrorist
12 under Executive Order 13224 (50 U.S.C. 1701
13 note; relating to blocking property and prohib-
14 iting transactions with persons who commit,
15 threaten to commit, or support terrorism), or
16 successor order, or section 594.310 of title 31,
17 Code of Federal Regulations, or successor regu-
18 lation.

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