

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 990

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require broadcasting stations, providers of cable and satellite television, and online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that political advertisements are not purchased by a foreign national.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2021

Mr. GOLDEN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to require broadcasting stations, providers of cable and satellite television, and online platforms to make reasonable efforts to ensure that political advertisements are not purchased by a foreign national.

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 “Block Foreign-Funded
5 Political Ads Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PREVENTING CONTRIBUTIONS, EXPENDITURES,**
2 **INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES, AND DIS-**
3 **BURSEMENTS FOR ELECTIONEERING COM-**
4 **MUNICATIONS BY FOREIGN NATIONALS IN**
5 **THE FORM OF ONLINE ADVERTISING.**

6 Section 319 of the Federal Election Campaign Act
7 of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30121) is amended by adding at the
8 end the following new subsection:

9 “(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF BROADCAST STATIONS,
10 PROVIDERS OF CABLE AND SATELLITE TELEVISION, AND
11 ONLINE PLATFORMS.—

12 “(1) RESPONSIBILITIES DESCRIBED.—Each tel-
13 evision or radio broadcast station, provider of cable
14 or satellite television, or online platform shall make
15 reasonable efforts to ensure that communications de-
16 scribed in section 318(a) and made available by such
17 station, provider, or platform are not purchased by
18 a foreign national, directly or indirectly. For pur-
19 poses of the previous sentence, a station, provider,
20 or online platform shall not be considered to have
21 made reasonable efforts under this paragraph in the
22 case of the availability of a communication unless
23 the station, provider, or online platform directly in-
24 quires from the individual or entity making such
25 purchase whether the purchase is to be made by a
26 foreign national, directly or indirectly.

1 “(2) SPECIAL RULES FOR DISBURSEMENT PAID
2 WITH CREDIT CARD.—For purposes of paragraph
3 (1), a television or radio broadcast station, provider
4 of cable or satellite television, or online platform
5 shall be considered to have made reasonable efforts
6 under such paragraph in the case of a purchase of
7 the availability of a communication which is made
8 with a credit card if—

9 “(A) the individual or entity making such
10 purchase is required, at the time of making
11 such purchase, to disclose the credit verification
12 value of such credit card; and

13 “(B) the billing address associated with
14 such credit card is located in the United States
15 or, in the case of a purchase made by an indi-
16 vidual who is a United States citizen living out-
17 side of the United States, the individual pro-
18 vides the television or radio broadcast station,
19 provider of cable or satellite television, or online
20 platform with the United States mailing ad-
21 dress the individual uses for voter registration
22 purposes.

23 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—

24 “(A) ONLINE PLATFORM.—For purposes
25 of this subsection, the term ‘online platform’

1 means any public-facing website, web applica-
2 tion, or digital application (including a social
3 network, ad network, or search engine) which—

4 “(i) sells qualified political advertise-
5 ments; and

6 “(ii) has 50,000,000 or more unique
7 monthly United States visitors or users for
8 a majority of months during the preceding
9 12 months.

10 “(B) QUALIFIED POLITICAL ADVERTISE-
11 MENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the
12 term ‘qualified political advertisement’ means
13 any advertisement (including search engine
14 marketing, display advertisements, video adver-
15 tisements, native advertisements, and sponsor-
16 ships) that—

17 “(i) is made by or on behalf of a can-
18 didate; or

19 “(ii) communicates a message relating
20 to any political matter of national impor-
21 tance, including—

22 “(I) a candidate;

23 “(II) any election to Federal of-
24 fice; or

- 1 “(III) a national legislative issue
- 2 of public importance.”.

