

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8075

To authorize the Open Technology Fund of the United States Agency for Global Media to make grants to surge and sustain support for internet freedom technologies to counter acute escalations in censorship in closed countries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2022

Mrs. DEMINGS (for herself and Mr. KEATING) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To authorize the Open Technology Fund of the United States Agency for Global Media to make grants to surge and sustain support for internet freedom technologies to counter acute escalations in censorship in closed countries, 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 “Internet Freedom
5 Rapid Response Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. OPEN TECHNOLOGY FUND GRANTS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—In addition to grants made to the
3 Open Technology Fund of the United States Agency for
4 Global Media pursuant to section 305 of the United States
5 International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6204)
6 to make grants for the purposes specified in section 309A
7 of such Act (22 U.S.C. 6208a), the Open Technology
8 Fund may make grants to eligible entities to surge and
9 sustain support for internet freedom technologies to
10 counter acute escalations in censorship in closed countries.

11 (b) METHODOLOGY.—Grants under this section shall
12 be made competitively, and shall be subject to audits by
13 the Open Technology Fund to ensure that technologies de-
14 scribed in subsection (a) are secure and have not been
15 compromised in a manner detrimental to the interests of
16 the United States or to individuals or organizations bene-
17 fitting from programs supported by such grants.

18 (c) REPORTING.—The Open Technology Fund shall
19 annually submit to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the
20 Committee on Appropriations, and the Permanent Select
21 Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives
22 and the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee
23 on Appropriations, and the Select Committee on Intel-
24 ligence of the Senate a report on grants made and activi-
25 ties carried out pursuant to such grants during the imme-
26 diately preceding fiscal year.

1 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
3 appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years
4 2022 through 2026 to carry out this section.

5 (2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts authorized to be
6 appropriated pursuant to this subsection are author-
7 ized to remain available until expended.

8 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 (1) CLOSED COUNTRIES.—The term “closed
10 countries” means countries in which democratic par-
11 ticipation, free expression, freedom of movement, or
12 access to information is suppressed or explicitly pro-
13 hibited through political, judicial, social, or technical
14 means, or as otherwise determined by the Secretary
15 of State, the Chief Executive Officer for the United
16 States Agency for Global Media, or the President of
17 the Open Technology Fund.

18 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term “eligible
19 entities” means public or private sector entities with
20 proven and already-deployed technology relating to
21 surging and sustaining support for internet freedom
22 technologies to counter acute escalations in censor-
23 ship in closed countries.

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