

“Combatting Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016”

DHS Technical Drafting Assistance Provided to CHS Majority:

In General: DHS is supportive of efforts to foster community partnerships to counter violent extremism. The DHS Office of Community Partnerships already has the authority to conduct the types of efforts described in this bill.

Sec. 1: DHS supports the updated title, “Combating Terrorist Recruitment Act of 2016.”

Sec. 2(a): DHS cautions that public perception of how these testimonials are obtained could affect the Department and the USG’s community engagement and countering violent extremism efforts—especially with the Muslim community. If the community believes this information is obtained from informants, intelligence gathering, or surveillance, and the information is then widely disseminated, it could have a negative impact on DHS community partnerships. These partnerships are central to community engagement and CVE programming.

Sec. 2(a): There is some ambiguity in the term “disaffected.”

Sec. 2(a)(2): DHS recommends against using the term “propaganda.” Propaganda is a non-neutral term that connotes state action. Describing ISIL messaging as “propaganda” implies that ISIL is a legitimate state. Recommend using the term “communications” rather than “propaganda.”