

HR 7708

Defend COVID Research from Hackers Act

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: International Affairs

Introduced: Jul 21, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for

Latest Action: Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. (Jul 21, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/7708>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. McCarthy, Kevin [R-CA-23]

Party: Republican • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (33 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Babin, Brian [R-TX-36]	R · TX		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Balderson, Troy [R-OH-12]	R · OH		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Collins, Doug [R-GA-9]	R · GA		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Crawford, Eric A. "Rick" [R-AR-1]	R · AR		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Fulcher, Russ [R-ID-1]	R · ID		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Hern, Kevin [R-OK-1]	R · OK		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Kelly, Mike [R-PA-16]	R · PA		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. King, Peter T. [R-NY-2]	R · NY		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. LaMalfa, Doug [R-CA-1]	R · CA		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Lamborn, Doug [R-CO-5]	R · CO		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Latta, Robert E. [R-OH-5]	R · OH		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Roe, David P. [R-TN-1]	R · TN		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Smith, Christopher H. [R-NJ-4]	R · NJ		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Smith, Jason [R-MO-8]	R · MO		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Stefanik, Elise M. [R-NY-21]	R · NY		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Steube, W. Gregory [R-FL-17]	R · FL		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Thompson, Glenn [R-PA-15]	R · PA		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Timmons, William R. IV [R-SC-4]	R · SC		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Wagner, Ann [R-MO-2]	R · MO		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Yoho, Ted S. [R-FL-3]	R · FL		Jul 24, 2020
Rep. Calvert, Ken [R-CA-42]	R · CA		Jul 27, 2020
Rep. Davis, Rodney [R-IL-13]	R · IL		Jul 31, 2020
Rep. Johnson, Mike [R-LA-4]	R · LA		Jul 31, 2020
Rep. Kinzinger, Adam [R-IL-16]	R · IL		Jul 31, 2020
Rep. Pence, Greg [R-IN-6]	R · IN		Jul 31, 2020
Rep. Reschenthaler, Guy [R-PA-14]	R · PA		Jul 31, 2020
Rep. Rigglesman, Denver [R-VA-5]	R · VA		Jul 31, 2020
Rep. Schweikert, David [R-AZ-6]	R · AZ		Jul 31, 2020
Rep. Spano, Ross [R-FL-15]	R · FL		Jul 31, 2020
Rep. Wright, Ron [R-TX-6]	R · TX		Jul 31, 2020
Rep. Joyce, David P. [R-OH-14]	R · OH		Sep 4, 2020
Rep. Rice, Tom [R-SC-7]	R · SC		Sep 4, 2020
Rep. Williams, Roger [R-TX-25]	R · TX		Sep 4, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Foreign Affairs Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 21, 2020
Judiciary Committee	House	Referred To	Jul 21, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

International Affairs

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
116 S 4793	Related bill	Oct 1, 2020: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Summary (as of Jul 21, 2020)

Defend COVID Research from Hackers Act

This bill authorizes the President to impose visa-blocking, property-blocking, or economic sanctions on a foreign person that is involved in activities that are reasonably likely to result in a significant threat to U.S. national security, foreign policy, public health, economic health, or financial stability.

The Department of State must submit a report detailing the extent of known or attempted cyber-enabled activities by foreign persons related to COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) and assessing whether those activities qualify for the imposition of sanctions.

Further, the bill provides penalties for a person who knowingly traffics in access to a protected computer if the trafficker knows the protected computer has been damaged in a prohibited manner. The bill also authorizes an injunction against a person who causes damage through accessing a protected computer or transmitting a program, information, code, or command to a protected computer.

Actions Timeline

- **Jul 21, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Jul 21, 2020:** Referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

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