

AMENDMENT TO
RULES COMMITTEE PRINT 117-20
OFFERED BY MR. KILMER OF WASHINGTON

Page 157, beginning on line 15, strike “**FOREIGN INTERFERENCE**” and insert “**FOREIGN INTERFERENCE; HONEST ADS**”.

Page 175, insert after line 18 the following (and re-designate the succeeding provisions accordingly):

1 **TITLE XV—HONEST ADS**

2 **SEC. 1501. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This title may be cited as the “Honest Ads Act”.

4 **SEC. 1502. PURPOSE.**

5 The purpose of this title is to enhance the integrity
6 of American democracy and national security by improving
7 disclosure requirements for online political advertisements
8 in order to uphold the Supreme Court’s well-established
9 standard that the electorate bears the right to be fully in-
10 formed.

11 **SEC. 1503. FINDINGS.**

12 Congress makes the following findings:

13 (1) On January 6, 2017, the Office of the Di-
14 rector of National Intelligence published a report ti-

1 tled “Assessing Russian Activities and Intentions in
2 Recent U.S. Elections”, noting that “Russian Presi-
3 dent Vladimir Putin ordered an influence campaign
4 in 2016 aimed at the US presidential election * *
5 *”. Moscow’s influence campaign followed a Russian
6 messaging strategy that blends covert intelligence
7 operation—such as cyber activity—with overt efforts
8 by Russian Government agencies, state-funded
9 media, third-party intermediaries, and paid social
10 media users or “trolls”.

11 (2) On November 24, 2016, The Washington
12 Post reported findings from 2 teams of independent
13 researchers that concluded Russians “exploited
14 American-made technology platforms to attack U.S.
15 democracy at a particularly vulnerable moment * *
16 * as part of a broadly effective strategy of sowing
17 distrust in U.S. democracy and its leaders.”.

18 (3) Findings from a 2017 study on the manipu-
19 lation of public opinion through social media con-
20 ducted by the Computational Propaganda Research
21 Project at the Oxford Internet Institute found that
22 the Kremlin is using pro-Russian bots to manipulate
23 public discourse to a highly targeted audience. With
24 a sample of nearly 1,300,000 tweets, researchers
25 found that in the 2016 election’s 3 decisive States,

1 propaganda constituted 40 percent of the sampled
2 election-related tweets that went to Pennsylvanians,
3 34 percent to Michigan voters, and 30 percent to
4 those in Wisconsin. In other swing States, the figure
5 reached 42 percent in Missouri, 41 percent in Flor-
6 ida, 40 percent in North Carolina, 38 percent in
7 Colorado, and 35 percent in Ohio.

8 (4) On September 6, 2017, the nation’s largest
9 social media platform disclosed that between June
10 2015 and May 2017, Russian entities purchased
11 \$100,000 in political advertisements, publishing
12 roughly 3,000 ads linked to fake accounts associated
13 with the Internet Research Agency, a pro-Kremlin
14 organization. According to the company, the ads
15 purchased focused “on amplifying divisive social and
16 political messages * * *”.

17 (5) In 2002, the Bipartisan Campaign Reform
18 Act became law, establishing disclosure requirements
19 for political advertisements distributed from a tele-
20 vision or radio broadcast station or provider of cable
21 or satellite television. In 2003, the Supreme Court
22 upheld regulations on electioneering communications
23 established under the Act, noting that such require-
24 ments “provide the electorate with information and

1 insure that the voters are fully informed about the
2 person or group who is speaking.”.

3 (6) According to a study from Borrell Associ-
4 ates, in 2016, \$1,415,000,000 was spent on online
5 advertising, more than quadruple the amount in
6 2012.

7 (7) The reach of a few large internet plat-
8 forms—larger than any broadcast, satellite, or cable
9 provider—has greatly facilitated the scope and effec-
10 tiveness of disinformation campaigns. For instance,
11 the largest platform has over 210,000,000 Ameri-
12 cans users—over 160,000,000 of them on a daily
13 basis. By contrast, the largest cable television pro-
14 vider has 22,430,000 subscribers, while the largest
15 satellite television provider has 21,000,000 sub-
16 scribers. And the most-watched television broadcast
17 in United States history had 118,000,000 viewers.

18 (8) The public nature of broadcast television,
19 radio, and satellite ensures a level of publicity for
20 any political advertisement. These communications
21 are accessible to the press, fact-checkers, and polit-
22 ical opponents; this creates strong disincentives for
23 a candidate to disseminate materially false, inflam-
24 matory, or contradictory messages to the public. So-
25 cial media platforms, in contrast, can target portions

1 of the electorate with direct, ephemeral advertise-
2 ments often on the basis of private information the
3 platform has on individuals, enabling political adver-
4 tisements that are contradictory, racially or socially
5 inflammatory, or materially false.

6 (9) According to comScore, 2 companies own 8
7 of the 10 most popular smart phone applications as
8 of June 2017, including the most popular social
9 media and email services—which deliver information
10 and news to users without requiring proactivity by
11 the user. Those same 2 companies accounted for 99
12 percent of revenue growth from digital advertising in
13 2016, including 77 percent of gross spending. 79
14 percent of online Americans—representing 68 per-
15 cent of all Americans—use the single largest social
16 network, while 66 percent of these users are most
17 likely to get their news from that site.

18 (10) In its 2006 rulemaking, the Federal Elec-
19 tion Commission noted that only 18 percent of all
20 Americans cited the internet as their leading source
21 of news about the 2004 Presidential election; by con-
22 trast, the Pew Research Center found that 65 per-
23 cent of Americans identified an internet-based
24 source as their leading source of information for the
25 2016 election.

1 (11) The Federal Election Commission, the
2 independent Federal agency charged with protecting
3 the integrity of the Federal campaign finance proc-
4 ess by providing transparency and administering
5 campaign finance laws, has failed to take action to
6 address online political advertisements.

7 (12) In testimony before the Senate Select
8 Committee on Intelligence titled, “Disinformation: A
9 Primer in Russian Active Measures and Influence
10 Campaigns”, multiple expert witnesses testified that
11 while the disinformation tactics of foreign adver-
12 saries have not necessarily changed, social media
13 services now provide “platform[s] practically pur-
14 pose-built for active measures[.]” Similarly, as Gen.
15 Keith B. Alexander (RET.), the former Director of
16 the National Security Agency, testified, during the
17 Cold War “if the Soviet Union sought to manipulate
18 information flow, it would have to do so principally
19 through its own propaganda outlets or through ac-
20 tive measures that would generate specific news:
21 planting of leaflets, inciting of violence, creation of
22 other false materials and narratives. But the news
23 itself was hard to manipulate because it would have
24 required actual control of the organs of media, which
25 took long-term efforts to penetrate. Today, however,

1 because the clear majority of the information on so-
2 cial media sites is uncurated and there is a rapid
3 proliferation of information sources and other sites
4 that can reinforce information, there is an increasing
5 likelihood that the information available to average
6 consumers may be inaccurate (whether intentionally
7 or otherwise) and may be more easily manipulable
8 than in prior eras.”.

9 (13) Current regulations on political advertise-
10 ments do not provide sufficient transparency to up-
11 hold the public’s right to be fully informed about po-
12 litical advertisements made online.

13 **SEC. 1504. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

14 It is the sense of Congress that—

15 (1) the dramatic increase in digital political ad-
16 vertisements, and the growing centrality of online
17 platforms in the lives of Americans, requires the
18 Congress and the Federal Election Commission to
19 take meaningful action to ensure that laws and reg-
20 ulations provide the accountability and transparency
21 that is fundamental to our democracy;

22 (2) free and fair elections require both trans-
23 parency and accountability which give the public a
24 right to know the true sources of funding for polit-
25 ical advertisements in order to make informed polit-

1 ical choices and hold elected officials accountable;
2 and

3 (3) transparency of funding for political adver-
4 tisements is essential to enforce other campaign fi-
5 nance laws, including the prohibition on campaign
6 spending by foreign nationals.

7 **SEC. 1505. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF PUBLIC COMMU-
8 NICATION.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (22) of section 301 of
10 the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C.
11 30101(22)) is amended by striking “or satellite commu-
12 nication” and inserting “satellite, paid internet, or paid
13 digital communication”.

14 (b) TREATMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDI-
15 TURES.—Section 301 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30101) is
16 amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (8)(B)(v), by striking “on
18 broadcasting stations, or in newspapers, magazines,
19 or similar types of general public political adver-
20 tising” and inserting “in any public communica-
21 tion”; and

22 (2) in paragraph (9)(B)—

23 (A) by amending clause (i) to read as fol-
24 lows:

1 “(i) any news story, commentary, or
2 editorial distributed through the facilities
3 of any broadcasting station or any print,
4 online, or digital newspaper, magazine,
5 blog, publication, or periodical, unless such
6 broadcasting, print, online, or digital facili-
7 ties are owned or controlled by any polit-
8 ical party, political committee, or can-
9 didate;” and

10 (B) in clause (iv), by striking “on broad-
11 casting stations, or in newspapers, magazines,
12 or similar types of general public political ad-
13 vertising” and inserting “in any public commu-
14 nication”.

15 (c) DISCLOSURE AND DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS.—
16 Subsection (a) of section 318 of such Act (52 U.S.C.
17 30120) is amended—

18 (1) by striking “financing any communication
19 through any broadcasting station, newspaper, maga-
20 zine, outdoor advertising facility, mailing, or any
21 other type of general public political advertising”
22 and inserting “financing any public communication”;
23 and

24 (2) by striking “solicits any contribution
25 through any broadcasting station, newspaper, maga-

1 zine, outdoor advertising facility, mailing, or any
2 other type of general public political advertising”
3 and inserting “solicits any contribution through any
4 public communication”.

5 **SEC. 1506. EXPANSION OF DEFINITION OF ELECTION-**
6 **EERING COMMUNICATION.**

7 (a) EXPANSION TO ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS.—

8 (1) APPLICATION TO QUALIFIED INTERNET AND
9 DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of
11 section 304(f)(3) of the Federal Election Cam-
12 paign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)(3)(A))
13 is amended by striking “or satellite communica-
14 tion” each place it appears in clauses (i) and
15 (ii) and inserting “satellite, or qualified internet
16 or digital communication”.

17 (B) QUALIFIED INTERNET OR DIGITAL
18 COMMUNICATION.—Paragraph (3) of section
19 304(f) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 30104(f)) is
20 amended by adding at the end the following
21 new subparagraph:

22 “(D) QUALIFIED INTERNET OR DIGITAL
23 COMMUNICATION.—The term ‘qualified internet
24 or digital communication’ means any commu-
25 nication which is placed or promoted for a fee

1 on an online platform (as defined in subsection
2 (k)(3)).”.

3 (2) NONAPPLICATION OF RELEVANT ELEC-
4 TORATE TO ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS.—Section
5 304(f)(3)(A)(i)(III) of such Act (52 U.S.C.
6 30104(f)(3)(A)(i)(III)) is amended by inserting “any
7 broadcast, cable, or satellite” before “communica-
8 tion”.

9 (3) NEWS EXEMPTION.—Section
10 304(f)(3)(B)(i) of such Act (52 U.S.C.
11 30104(f)(3)(B)(i)) is amended to read as follows:

12 “(i) a communication appearing in a
13 news story, commentary, or editorial dis-
14 tributed through the facilities of any
15 broadcasting station or any online or dig-
16 ital newspaper, magazine, blog, publica-
17 tion, or periodical, unless such broad-
18 casting, online, or digital facilities are
19 owned or controlled by any political party,
20 political committee, or candidate;”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 this section shall apply with respect to communications
23 made on or after January 1, 2022.

1 **SEC. 1507. APPLICATION OF DISCLAIMER STATEMENTS TO**
2 **ONLINE COMMUNICATIONS.**

3 (a) CLEAR AND CONSPICUOUS MANNER REQUIRE-
4 MENT.—Subsection (a) of section 318 of the Federal Elec-
5 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30120(a)) is
6 amended—

7 (1) by striking “shall clearly state” each place
8 it appears in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) and in-
9 serting “shall state in a clear and conspicuous man-
10 ner”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following flush
12 sentence: “For purposes of this section, a commu-
13 nication does not make a statement in a clear and
14 conspicuous manner if it is difficult to read or hear
15 or if the placement is easily overlooked.”.

16 (b) SPECIAL RULES FOR QUALIFIED INTERNET OR
17 DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 318 of such Act (52
19 U.S.C. 30120) is amended by adding at the end the
20 following new subsection:

21 “(e) SPECIAL RULES FOR QUALIFIED INTERNET OR
22 DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS.—

23 “(1) SPECIAL RULES WITH RESPECT TO STATE-
24 MENTS.—In the case of any qualified internet or
25 digital communication (as defined in section
26 304(f)(3)(D)) which is disseminated through a me-

1 dium in which the provision of all of the information
2 specified in this section is not possible, the commu-
3 nication shall, in a clear and conspicuous manner—

4 “(A) state the name of the person who
5 paid for the communication; and

6 “(B) provide a means for the recipient of
7 the communication to obtain the remainder of
8 the information required under this section with
9 minimal effort and without receiving or viewing
10 any additional material other than such re-
11 quired information.

12 “(2) SAFE HARBOR FOR DETERMINING CLEAR
13 AND CONSPICUOUS MANNER.—A statement in quali-
14 fied internet or digital communication (as defined in
15 section 304(f)(3)(D)) shall be considered to be made
16 in a clear and conspicuous manner as provided in
17 subsection (a) if the communication meets the fol-
18 lowing requirements:

19 “(A) TEXT OR GRAPHIC COMMUNICA-
20 TIONS.—In the case of a text or graphic com-
21 munication, the statement—

22 “(i) appears in letters at least as large
23 as the majority of the text in the commu-
24 nication; and

1 “(ii) meets the requirements of para-
2 graphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c).

3 “(B) AUDIO COMMUNICATIONS.—In the
4 case of an audio communication, the statement
5 is spoken in a clearly audible and intelligible
6 manner at the beginning or end of the commu-
7 nication and lasts at least 3 seconds.

8 “(C) VIDEO COMMUNICATIONS.—In the
9 case of a video communication which also in-
10 cludes audio, the statement—

11 “(i) is included at either the beginning
12 or the end of the communication; and

13 “(ii) is made both in—

14 “(I) a written format that meets
15 the requirements of subparagraph (A)
16 and appears for at least 4 seconds;
17 and

18 “(II) an audible format that
19 meets the requirements of subpara-
20 graph (B).

21 “(D) OTHER COMMUNICATIONS.—In the
22 case of any other type of communication, the
23 statement is at least as clear and conspicuous
24 as the statement specified in subparagraph (A),
25 (B), or (C).”.

1 (2) NONAPPLICATION OF CERTAIN EXCEP-
2 TIONS.—The exceptions provided in section
3 110.11(f)(1)(i) and (ii) of title 11, Code of Federal
4 Regulations, or any successor to such rules, shall
5 have no application to qualified internet or digital
6 communications (as defined in section 304(f)(3)(D)
7 of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971).

8 (c) MODIFICATION OF ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
9 FOR CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS.—Section 318(d) of such
10 Act (52 U.S.C. 30120(d)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1)(A)—

12 (A) by striking “which is transmitted
13 through radio” and inserting “which is in an
14 audio format”; and

15 (B) by striking “BY RADIO” in the heading
16 and inserting “AUDIO FORMAT”;

17 (2) in paragraph (1)(B)—

18 (A) by striking “which is transmitted
19 through television” and inserting “which is in
20 video format”; and

21 (B) by striking “BY TELEVISION” in the
22 heading and inserting “VIDEO FORMAT”; and

23 (3) in paragraph (2)—

1 (A) by striking “transmitted through radio
2 or television” and inserting “made in audio or
3 video format”; and

4 (B) by striking “through television” in the
5 second sentence and inserting “in video for-
6 mat”.

7 **SEC. 1508. POLITICAL RECORD REQUIREMENTS FOR ON-**
8 **LINE PLATFORMS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 304 of the Federal Elec-
10 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104), as amend-
11 ed by section 1301(a)(1), is further amended by adding
12 at the end the following new subsection:

13 “(k) DISCLOSURE OF CERTAIN ONLINE ADVERTISE-
14 MENTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

16 “(A) REQUIREMENTS FOR ONLINE PLAT-
17 FORMS.—An online platform shall maintain,
18 and make available for online public inspection
19 in machine readable format, a complete record
20 of any request to purchase on such online plat-
21 form a qualified political advertisement which is
22 made by a person whose aggregate requests to
23 purchase qualified political advertisements on
24 such online platform during the calendar year
25 exceeds \$500.

1 “(B) REQUIREMENTS FOR ADVER-
2 TISERS.—Any person who requests to purchase
3 a qualified political advertisement on an online
4 platform shall provide the online platform with
5 such information as is necessary for the online
6 platform to comply with the requirements of
7 subparagraph (A).

8 “(2) CONTENTS OF RECORD.—A record main-
9 tained under paragraph (1)(A) shall contain—

10 “(A) a digital copy of the qualified political
11 advertisement;

12 “(B) a description of the audience targeted
13 by the advertisement, the number of views gen-
14 erated from the advertisement, and the date
15 and time that the advertisement is first dis-
16 played and last displayed; and

17 “(C) information regarding—

18 “(i) the average rate charged for the
19 advertisement;

20 “(ii) the name of the candidate to
21 which the advertisement refers and the of-
22 fice to which the candidate is seeking elec-
23 tion, the election to which the advertise-
24 ment refers, or the national legislative

1 issue to which the advertisement refers (as
2 applicable);

3 “(iii) in the case of a request made
4 by, or on behalf of, a candidate, the name
5 of the candidate, the authorized committee
6 of the candidate, and the treasurer of such
7 committee; and

8 “(iv) in the case of any request not
9 described in clause (iii), the name of the
10 person purchasing the advertisement, the
11 name and address of a contact person for
12 such person, and a list of the chief execu-
13 tive officers or members of the executive
14 committee or of the board of directors of
15 such person, and, if the person purchasing
16 the advertisement is acting as the agent of
17 a foreign principal under the Foreign
18 Agents Registration Act of 1938, as
19 amended (22 U.S.C. 611 et seq.), a state-
20 ment that the person is acting as the agent
21 of a foreign principal and the identification
22 of the foreign principal involved.

23 “(3) ONLINE PLATFORM.—For purposes of this
24 subsection, the term ‘online platform’ means any
25 public-facing website, web application, or digital ap-

1 plication (including a social network, ad network, or
2 search engine) which—

3 “(A) sells qualified political advertise-
4 ments; and

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

9 “(4) QUALIFIED POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT.—

10 For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘qualified
11 political advertisement’ means any advertisement
12 (including search engine marketing, display adver-
13 tisements, video advertisements, native advertise-
14 ments, and sponsorships) that—

15 “(A) is made by or on behalf of a can-
16 didate; or

17 “(B) communicates a message relating to
18 any political matter of national importance, in-
19 cluding—

20 “(i) a candidate;

21 “(ii) any election to Federal office; or

22 “(iii) a national legislative issue of
23 public importance.

24 “(5) TIME TO MAINTAIN FILE.—The informa-
25 tion required under this subsection shall be made

1 available as soon as possible and shall be retained by
2 the online platform for a period of not less than 4
3 years.

4 “(6) SAFE HARBOR FOR PLATFORMS MAKING
5 BEST EFFORTS TO IDENTIFY REQUESTS WHICH ARE
6 SUBJECT TO RECORD MAINTENANCE REQUIRE-
7 MENTS.—In accordance with rules established by the
8 Commission, if an online platform shows that the
9 platform used best efforts to determine whether or
10 not a request to purchase a qualified political adver-
11 tisement was subject to the requirements of this sub-
12 section, the online platform shall not be considered
13 to be in violation of such requirements.

14 “(7) PENALTIES.—For penalties for failure by
15 online platforms, and persons requesting to purchase
16 a qualified political advertisement on online plat-
17 forms, to comply with the requirements of this sub-
18 section, see section 309.”.

19 (b) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 120 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Election
21 Commission shall establish rules—

22 (1) requiring common data formats for the
23 record required to be maintained under section
24 304(k) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of
25 1971 (as added by subsection (a)) so that all online

1 platforms submit and maintain data online in a com-
2 mon, machine-readable and publicly accessible for-
3 mat;

4 (2) establishing search interface requirements
5 relating to such record, including searches by can-
6 didate name, issue, purchaser, and date; and

7 (3) establishing the criteria for the safe harbor
8 exception provided under paragraph (6) of section
9 304(k) of such Act (as added by subsection (a)).

10 (c) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the
11 date of the enactment of this Act, and biannually there-
12 after, the Chairman of the Federal Election Commission
13 shall submit a report to Congress on—

14 (1) matters relating to compliance with and the
15 enforcement of the requirements of section 304(k) of
16 the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971, as
17 added by subsection (a);

18 (2) recommendations for any modifications to
19 such section to assist in carrying out its purposes;
20 and

21 (3) identifying ways to bring transparency and
22 accountability to political advertisements distributed
23 online for free.

1 **SEC. 1509. 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), as amended by section
8 1401(a), is further amended by adding at the end the fol-
9 lowing new subsection:

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

13 “(1) RESPONSIBILITIES DESCRIBED.—Each tel-
14 evision or radio broadcast station, provider of cable
15 or satellite television, or online platform (as defined
16 in section 304(k)(3)) shall make reasonable efforts
17 to ensure that communications described in section
18 318(a) and made available by such station, provider,
19 or platform are not purchased by a foreign national,
20 directly or indirectly. For purposes of the previous
21 sentence, a station, provider, or online platform shall
22 not be considered to have made reasonable efforts
23 under this paragraph in the case of the availability
24 of a communication unless the station, provider, or
25 online platform directly inquires from the individual
26 or entity making such purchase whether the pur-

1 chase is to be made by a foreign national, directly
2 or indirectly.

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 1510. INDEPENDENT STUDY ON MEDIA LITERACY AND**
2 **ONLINE POLITICAL CONTENT CONSUMPTION.**

3 (a) INDEPENDENT STUDY.—Not later than 30 days
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Elec-
5 tion Commission shall commission an independent study
6 and report on media literacy with respect to online polit-
7 ical content consumption among voting-age Americans.

8 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study and report under sub-
9 section (a) shall include the following:

10 (1) An evaluation of media literacy skills, such
11 as the ability to evaluate sources, synthesize multiple
12 accounts into a coherent understanding of an issue,
13 understand the context of communications, and re-
14 sponsibly create and share information, among vot-
15 ing-age Americans.

16 (2) An analysis of the effects of media literacy
17 education and particular media literacy skills on the
18 ability to critically consume online political content,
19 including political advertising.

20 (3) Recommendations for improving voting-age
21 Americans' ability to critically consume online polit-
22 ical content, including political advertising.

23 (c) DEADLINE.—Not later than 270 days after the
24 date of enactment of this Act, the entity conducting the
25 study and report under subsection (a) shall submit the re-
26 port to the Commission.

1 (d) SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30
2 days after receiving the report under subsection (c), the
3 Commission shall submit the report to the Committee on
4 House Administration of the House of Representatives
5 and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the
6 Senate, together with such comments on the report as the
7 Commission considers appropriate.

8 (e) DEFINITION OF MEDIA LITERACY.—The term
9 “media literacy” means the ability to—

10 (1) access relevant and accurate information
11 through media;

12 (2) critically analyze media content and the in-
13 fluences of media;

14 (3) evaluate the comprehensiveness, relevance,
15 credibility, authority, and accuracy of information;

16 (4) make educated decisions based on informa-
17 tion obtained from media and digital sources;

18 (5) operate various forms of technology and
19 digital tools; and

20 (6) reflect on how the use of media and tech-
21 nology may affect private and public life.

