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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish a registry to reduce swatting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WALKINSHAW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a registry to reduce swatting, 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 “Swatting Registry Best
5 Practices Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEVELOPMENT AND ISSUANCE OF GUIDANCE ON**
7 **SWATTING REGISTRIES.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General,

1 in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security,
2 shall develop and issue guidance, which shall include best
3 practices for State, Tribal, territorial, and local govern-
4 ments and public safety agencies regarding the establish-
5 ment, operation, and oversight of voluntary swatting reg-
6 istries and related public safety protocols.

7 (b) CONSULTATION.—In developing the guidance
8 under subsection (a), the Attorney General shall consult
9 with—

10 (1) State, local, Tribal, and territorial law en-
11 forcement agencies and public safety answering
12 points, including those serving large, mid-sized, and
13 rural jurisdictions;

14 (2) civil rights, civil liberties, and privacy orga-
15 nizations;

16 (3) organizations representing persons with dis-
17 abilities and other vulnerable populations;

18 (4) technology providers and 9–1–1 system ven-
19 dors with relevant expertise in secure database de-
20 sign, caller authentication, and call-handling proto-
21 cols; and

22 (5) individuals and households who have been
23 victims of swatting incidents, and advocates or orga-
24 nizations representing high-risk populations.

25 (c) GUIDANCE.—

1 (1) CONTENTS.—The guidance required under
2 subsection (a) shall include, at a minimum, the fol-
3 lowing:

4 (A) PROGRAM DESIGN AND ELIGIBILITY.—
5 The best practices for designing voluntary swat-
6 ting registries that—

7 (i) allow voluntary opt-in by residents;

8 (ii) identify categories of higher-risk
9 registrants, including individuals reason-
10 ably believed to face an elevated risk of
11 swatting or targeting harassment;

12 (iii) provide clear criteria and proce-
13 dures for registration, renewal, and re-
14 moval; and

15 (iv) ensure equitable access for com-
16 munities with limited English proficiency,
17 persons with disabilities, and other under-
18 served groups.

19 (B) DATA ELEMENTS AND DATA MINIMIZA-
20 TION.—The best practices regarding the nec-
21 essary data elements to be collected and stored,
22 which may include—

23 (i) the address and, where applicable,
24 unit or apartment number;

1 (ii) primary and secondary telephone
2 numbers;

3 (iii) additional contact methods such
4 as email addresses or other secure,
5 verifiable communication channels;

6 (iv) optional verification mechanisms,
7 such as pre-agreed code words or phrases,
8 and contact information for multiple
9 household members; and

10 (v) associated time frames or condi-
11 tions (such as expected periods of height-
12 ened risk), where applicable, while mini-
13 mizing the collection and retention of per-
14 sonally identifiable information.

15 (C) INCIDENT RESPONSE INTEGRATION.—

16 The best practices for integrating registry infor-
17 mation into call-taking and dispatch workflows,
18 including—

19 (i) automated dispatch flags or alerts
20 when a call originates from, or concerns, a
21 registered address;

22 (ii) guidance for tactical response ad-
23 justments when verification suggests a
24 likely hoax, including options for lower-es-
25 calation approaches such as staged re-

1 sponses, announcements, or requests for
2 occupants to meet officers outside when
3 safe to do so; and

4 (iii) protocols for documentation and
5 after-action review of incidents involving
6 registered addresses.

7 (D) OFFICER SAFETY AND TRAINING.—
8 Recommendations for training call-takers, dis-
9 patch personnel, and responding officers on—

10 (i) the nature and risks of swatting;

11 (ii) appropriate use of swatting reg-
12 istry information in assessing risk and se-
13 lecting tactics; and

14 (iii) avoiding overreliance on
15 unverified registry data while using such
16 data to reduce unnecessary risk.

17 (E) PRIVACY, CIVIL RIGHTS, AND CIVIL
18 LIBERTIES PROTECTIONS.—The best practices
19 to—

20 (i) ensure participation is voluntary
21 and based on informed consent;

22 (ii) restrict access to registry data to
23 authorized personnel, with role-based ac-
24 cess controls;

1 (iii) require encryption of records at
2 rest and in transit, and other appropriate
3 cybersecurity safeguards;

4 (iv) provide full audit logging of ac-
5 cess and use;

6 (v) prevent misuse of registry infor-
7 mation for discriminatory or retaliatory
8 purposes; and

9 (vi) provide notice, redress, and com-
10 plaint mechanisms for registrants and the
11 public.

12 (F) DATA RETENTION, ACCURACY, AND
13 GOVERNANCE.—The best practices regarding—

14 (i) reasonable limits on data retention;

15 (ii) procedures for registrants to up-
16 date or delete their information at any
17 time;

18 (iii) periodic review and renewal mech-
19 anisms, including annual prompts or other
20 methods to ensure accuracy; and

21 (iv) appropriate governance, including
22 designation of responsible officers, policy
23 review cycles, and community engagement.

1 (G) TECHNOLOGY, INTEROPERABILITY,
2 AND FUNDING CONSIDERATIONS.—Rec-
3 ommendations regarding—

4 (i) technical approaches for inte-
5 grating swatting registries with existing 9-
6 1-1 and computer-aided dispatch systems;

7 (ii) secure online portals or mecha-
8 nisms for registration and updates;

9 (iii) scalability for small and resource-
10 constrained jurisdictions; and

11 (iv) potential Federal resources, in-
12 cluding existing grant programs, that may
13 support implementation.

14 (H) METRICS AND EVALUATION.—Rec-
15 ommended metrics and methodologies to evalu-
16 ate—

17 (i) impact on safety outcomes for resi-
18 dents, pets, and officers;

19 (ii) impact on property damage, use-
20 of-force incidents, and traumatic forced en-
21 tries;

22 (iii) impact on litigation exposure and
23 settlement costs; and

24 (iv) impact on operational efficiency
25 and deterrence of swatting.

1 (I) USE BEYOND SWATTING.—Consider-
2 ations for how registry information, if appro-
3 priately designed and consented to, may safely
4 assist in other types of emergencies (such as
5 medical crises or wellness checks), while main-
6 taining clear limitations and safeguards to pre-
7 vent overcollection or misuse.

8 (d) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Attorney General
9 shall make the guidance issued under this subsection pub-
10 licly available on the website of the Department of Justice,
11 except for any material that would disclose information
12 that is sensitive or classified.

13 (e) UPDATES.—The Attorney General may periodi-
14 cally update the guidance issued under this subsection as
15 appropriate, including to reflect technological develop-
16 ments, emerging threats, and lessons learned from State,
17 Tribal, territorial, and local implementation.

18 **SEC. 3. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND DISSEMINATION.**

19 (a) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Subject to the avail-
20 ability of appropriations, the Attorney General may pro-
21 vide technical assistance to State, Tribal, territorial, and
22 local public safety agencies seeking to—

23 (1) establish voluntary swatting registries con-
24 sistent with the guidance issued under section 4; or

1 (2) integrate swatting-related verification and
2 response protocols into existing 9–1–1 and dispatch
3 operations.

4 (b) USE OF EXISTING PROGRAMS.—The Attorney
5 General shall, to the maximum extent practicable, use ex-
6 isting grant and assistance programs administered by the
7 Department of Justice to disseminate the guidance issued
8 under this Act and to support eligible jurisdictions that
9 choose to design or implement swatting registries con-
10 sistent with such guidance.

11 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

12 In this Act:

13 (1) SWATTING.—The term “swatting” means
14 the knowing and intentional making of a false or
15 misleading report to a public safety answering point,
16 law enforcement agency, or emergency service, con-
17 cerning an alleged ongoing emergency or threat,
18 with the reasonably foreseeable result of prompting
19 an armed or otherwise heightened law enforcement
20 response to a person or address.

21 (2) SWATTING REGISTRY.—The term “swatting
22 registry” means a voluntary program or database
23 maintained by a State, Tribal, territorial, or local
24 public safety or law enforcement agency that—

1 (A) allows individuals at an elevated risk
2 of swatting to register an address and associ-
3 ated contact information;

4 (B) stores such information in a secure,
5 access-controlled system available to authorized
6 dispatchers and supervisory personnel; and

7 (C) is designed to support verification and
8 response protocols when an emergency call is
9 received for a registered address.

10 (3) PUBLIC SAFETY ANSWERING POINT.—The
11 term “public safety answering point” has the mean-
12 ing given that term in section 222(h) of the Commu-
13 nications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 222(h)).