

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4612

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit foreign nationals from making disbursements for communications promoting, supporting, attacking, or opposing the election of a candidate for public office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 4, 2019

Mr. PHILLIPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit foreign nationals from making disbursements for communications promoting, supporting, attacking, or opposing the election of a candidate for public office, 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 “Firewall Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITING DISBURSEMENTS BY FOREIGN NA-**
2 **TIONALS FOR CERTAIN COMMUNICATIONS**
3 **INVOLVING CANDIDATES.**

4 (a) DISBURSEMENTS DESCRIBED.—Section
5 319(a)(1) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971
6 (52 U.S.C. 30121(a)(1)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph
8 (B); and

9 (2) by striking subparagraph (C) and inserting
10 the following:

11 “(C) an expenditure;

12 “(D) an independent expenditure;

13 “(E) a disbursement for an electioneering
14 communication (within the meaning of section
15 304(f)(3));

16 “(F) a disbursement for a communication
17 which is placed or promoted for a fee on a
18 website, web application, or digital application
19 that refers to a clearly identified candidate for
20 election for Federal office and is disseminated
21 within 60 days before a general, special or run-
22 off election for the office sought by the can-
23 didate or 30 days before a primary or pref-
24 erence election, or a convention or caucus of a
25 political party that has authority to nominate a

1 candidate for the office sought by the can-
2 didate; or

3 “(G) a disbursement for a broadcast, cable
4 or satellite communication, or for a communica-
5 tion which is placed or promoted for a fee on
6 a website, web application, or digital applica-
7 tion, that promotes, supports, attacks or op-
8 poses the election of a clearly identified can-
9 didate for Federal, State, or local office (re-
10 gardless of whether the communication contains
11 express advocacy or the functional equivalent of
12 express advocacy); or”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 this section shall apply with respect to disbursements
15 made on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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