

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 563

To direct the National Institute of Justice to collect, study, and analyze online content created by mass shooters in an effort to early identify potential mass shooters.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 26, 2023

Mr. MFUME (for himself, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CARSON, Mr. EVANS, Ms. PORTER, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. BROWN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. IVEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SABLAN, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To direct the National Institute of Justice to collect, study, and analyze online content created by mass shooters in an effort to early identify potential mass shooters.

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 “Identifying Mass  
5 Shooters Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Perpetrators of mass shootings have utilized  
4 various online channels to declare their intent to  
5 commit violence through manifestos, blog posts, so-  
6 cial media posts, and direct messages prior to com-  
7 mitting acts of terror.

8 (2) Inadequate oversight and accountability  
9 mechanisms on online platforms creates an environ-  
10 ment that enables hate speech, extremism,  
11 radicalization, and violence.

12 (3) In 2018, the Marjory Stoneman Douglas  
13 High School shooter posted a video on YouTube  
14 stating his desire to be a “professional school shoot-  
15 er,” and proceeded to share photos of himself posing  
16 with guns, along with troubling photos on Instagram  
17 of his weapons arsenal and an animal he tortured,  
18 prior to murdering 17 students and school staff  
19 members.

20 (4) In 2018, the Santa Fe High School shooter  
21 posted a Facebook photo of a t-shirt with “Born to  
22 Kill,” and images of Nazi and satanic symbols prior  
23 to murdering 10 students and school staff members.

24 (5) In 2022, the Buffalo Tops grocery store  
25 shooter declared on Discord, “I will carry out an at-  
26 tack,” posted a manifesto on 4chan, and then

1       livedreamed the murder of 10 Black people in a ra-  
2       cially motivated shooting.

3           (6) In 2022, the Robb Elementary School  
4       shooter posted a photo of a hand holding a gun  
5       magazine, 2 semi-automatic rifles, a TikTok profile  
6       that warned “Kids be scared,” and sent a direct  
7       message though Yubo notifying an individual of his  
8       intent to kill prior to murdering 21 children and  
9       staff members.

10          (7) The First Baptist Church of Sutherland  
11       Springs shooter demonstrated a fascination with  
12       mass shootings and launched personal attacks on  
13       Facebook prior to murdering 26 churchgoers, includ-  
14       ing an unborn child.

15 **SEC. 3. REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS.**

16       (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the  
17       date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Na-  
18       tional Institute of Justice shall prepare and submit a re-  
19       port to Congress identifying content patterns used by  
20       mass shooters through online platforms and social media  
21       channels.

22       (b) REVIEW AND CONSULTATION.—In preparing the  
23       report required under this section, the Director shall, at  
24       a minimum—

1           (1) review information, data, and reports relat-  
2           ing to linguistic patterns used by previous mass  
3           shooters collected by Federal, State, and local law  
4           enforcement as of the date of the enactment of this  
5           Act;

6           (2) review academic studies, including studies  
7           analyzing the relevance of social media in mass  
8           shootings described in paragraph (1); and

9           (3) meet with, and consider any facts and anal-  
10          yses offered by, prosecutors, defense attorneys, fam-  
11          ily attorneys, judges, nonprofit organizations, victims  
12          service providers, culturally specific organizations,  
13          Federal, State, Tribal, and local courts, Federal,  
14          State, Tribal, and local law enforcement agencies,  
15          and individuals with academic expertise in relin-  
16          quishment.

17          (c) IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FURTHER  
18          STUDY.—In the report under this section, the Director  
19          shall identify items for further study, relating to the effec-  
20          tiveness of the best practices developed under subsection  
21          (b). The Director shall publish a solicitation for applica-  
22          tions for research grants on such items not later than 30  
23          days after the date of the report.

24          **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

25          In this Act:

1           (1) MASS SHOOTING.—The term “mass shoot-  
2           ing” means any incident in which four or more indi-  
3           viduals, not including the shooter, are shot or killed  
4           with a gun.

5           (2) SOCIAL MEDIA.—The term “social media”  
6           means a channel for interactions among people in  
7           which they create, share, or exchange information  
8           and ideas in virtual communities and networks (spe-  
9           cific activities including instant messages, social  
10          media posts, blogs, uploading media content,  
11          through social media platforms including, Facebook,  
12          Twitter, YouTube, Flickr, Instagram, LinkedIn,  
13          WhatsApp, TikTok, Snapchat, Reddit, Twitch,  
14          4chan, 8run, Yubo, and Discord).

15 **SEC. 5. FEDERAL ADOPTION.**

16          The National Institute of Justice shall prepare and  
17          submit to Congress findings and recommendations for  
18          Federal legislation in accordance with section 3.

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