

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5344

To provide for international protection of digital freedom, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 19, 2024

Mr. COONS (for himself and Mr. TILLIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To provide for international protection of digital freedom,
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 “Advancing Digital
5 Freedom Act of 2024”.

6 **SEC. 2. STATEMENT OF POLICY.**

7 It is the policy of the United States—

8 (1) to ensure that technology is developed, de-
9 ployed, and governed in accordance with universal

1 human rights, the rule of law, and democratic val-
2 ues;

3 (2) to protect and promote digital freedom as a
4 cornerstone of United States foreign policy and
5 prioritize digital freedom to the highest extent pos-
6 sible in diplomatic engagements with foreign coun-
7 tries;

8 (3) to cooperate and engage with like-minded
9 countries committed to developing, deploying, and
10 using technology in a manner that respects democ-
11 racy, the rule of law, and human rights; and

12 (4) to lead global efforts to protect digital free-
13 dom, counter disinformation and misinformation,
14 and advance democratic governance in the digital
15 space consistent with guidelines outlined in the
16 United States International Cyberspace and Digital
17 Policy Strategy.

18 **SEC. 3. COORDINATOR FOR DIGITAL FREEDOM DEFINED.**

19 In this Act, the term “Coordinator for Digital Free-
20 dom” means the Coordinator for Digital Freedom in the
21 Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy in the United
22 States Department of State.

1 **SEC. 4. ROLE OF THE COORDINATOR FOR DIGITAL FREE-**
2 **DOM.**

3 (a) **CENTRAL OBJECTIVE.**—The central objective of
4 the Coordinator for Digital Freedom shall be to promote
5 efforts that—

6 (1) improve the state of digital freedom glob-
7 ally;

8 (2) ensure digital freedom remains a foremost
9 foreign policy priority of the United States Govern-
10 ment; and

11 (3) coordinate responses to concerning trends
12 impacting digital freedom.

13 (b) **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES.**—The Coordi-
14 nator shall—

15 (1) engage foreign governments, nongovern-
16 mental organizations, and other actors to coordinate
17 efforts to defend digital freedom against digital
18 authoritarianism and other authoritarian approaches
19 to governance and usage of technology;

20 (2) support multilateral efforts to protect and
21 reinforce information integrity within the context of
22 respect for freedom of expression;

23 (3) advance the development and maintenance
24 of technology that is designed, governed, and de-
25 ployed in manners consistent with democracy, the
26 rule of law, and human rights;

1 (4) promote digital inclusion across the digital
2 space;

3 (5) engage and advance discussions to promote
4 the democratic governance of artificial intelligence
5 and the implications of artificial intelligence govern-
6 ance on human rights and democracy;

7 (6) lead efforts within the Department of State
8 to continue publishing guidelines for protecting dig-
9 ital freedom across the cyberspace, including
10 through the Risk Management Profile for Artificial
11 Intelligence and Human Rights, as well as the Road-
12 map for Building Civil Resilience to the Global Dig-
13 ital Information Manipulation Challenge; and

14 (7) make recommendations regarding opportu-
15 nities to advance digital freedom internally within
16 the Department of State, as well as through diplo-
17 matic engagements with foreign countries.

18 (c) **ADDITIONAL DUTIES.**—In addition to the duties
19 and responsibilities specified in subsections (a) and (b),
20 the Coordinator may carry out other duties that the Sec-
21 retary of State may assign.

22 **SEC. 5. ANNUAL REPORT ON STATE OF DIGITAL FREEDOM**
23 **IN THE WORLD.**

24 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the
25 date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,

1 the Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy shall submit
2 to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and
3 the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives a report on the state of global digital freedom.

5 (b) ELEMENTS.—The report required under sub-
6 section (a) shall include—

7 (1) an analysis of concerning trends impacting
8 digital freedom globally, including—

9 (A) digital authoritarianism and threats to
10 democracy;

11 (B) censorship and propaganda;

12 (C) threats to information integrity;

13 (D) threats to digital inclusion;

14 (E) threats to privacy in the digital space;

15 and

16 (F) risks to responsible management of ar-
17 tificial intelligence and democratic governance
18 of artificial intelligence;

19 (2) a discussion of particular regions or coun-
20 tries of concern that are experiencing the greatest
21 threats to digital freedom; and

22 (3) recommendations for how to protect and
23 promote digital freedom in response to these con-
24 cerning trends.

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