

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 489

To prohibit the collection of information and the establishment or utilization of a registry for the purposes of classifying or surveilling certain United States persons and other individuals on the basis of religious affiliation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 12, 2017

Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. COHEN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, and Ms. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To prohibit the collection of information and the establishment or utilization of a registry for the purposes of classifying or surveilling certain United States persons and other individuals on the basis of religious affiliation, 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 “No Religious Registry
5 Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The National Security Entry-Exit System
4 (hereinafter referred to as “NSEERS”), which was
5 active from 2002 through 2011, registered and
6 tracked individuals on the basis of their religion by
7 targeting majority-Muslim countries in an attempt
8 to thwart terrorism.

9 (2) NSEERS tracked approximately 80,000
10 men and boys, and resulted in zero terrorist convic-
11 tions from 2002 through 2011.

12 (3) Mass surveillance of certain religious groups
13 is inherently incompatible with American values as
14 enshrined in the U.S. Constitution, does not improve
15 U.S. national security, and has the potential to
16 weaken national security by alienating crucial allies
17 in the fight against terrorism.

18 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—No United States Government of-
20 ficer or employee may collect information or establish or
21 otherwise utilize a database, or similar for the purpose of
22 classifying or surveilling, on the basis of religious affili-
23 ation, a United States national, an alien who is lawfully
24 present in the United States, or any alien who applies for
25 a visa or seeks admission to the United States or on whose
26 behalf a petition under the immigration laws is submitted,

1 or conduct any study related to the collection of such in-
2 formation or the establishment or utilization of such a reg-
3 istry, database, or similar.

4 (b) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this sec-
5 tion may be construed as prohibiting the collection of in-
6 formation that is voluntarily provided and from which per-
7 sonally identifiable information is removed, to be used
8 strictly for statistical purposes, including those permitted
9 under section 9 of title 13, United States Code, that do
10 not violate section 2 above.

11 **SEC. 4. PROHIBITION ON SOLICITATION AND PURCHASE.**

12 (a) **PROCUREMENT.**—A Federal entity may not solicit
13 or award a contract to any entity for such entity to collect
14 information or establish a registry that would violate sec-
15 tion 3.

16 (b) **COLLECTION OF CERTAIN INFORMATION.**—A
17 Federal entity may not purchase or solicit any information
18 on religious affiliation from a non-Federal entity for pur-
19 poses that would violate section 3.

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