

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2844

To clarify United States policy with respect to limitations on the domestic dissemination of program material about the United States that was prepared or disseminated by the United States Agency for Global Media or its component networks.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 17 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 16), 2025

Mr. MARSHALL (for Mr. LEE) (by request) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations

A BILL

To clarify United States policy with respect to limitations on the domestic dissemination of program material about the United States that was prepared or disseminated by the United States Agency for Global Media or its component networks.

- 1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*
- 2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**
- 3 This Act may be cited as the “Charlie Kirk Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISSEMINATION ABROAD OF INFORMATION ABOUT**
2 **THE UNITED STATES.**

3 (a) UNITED STATES INFORMATION AND EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGE ACT OF 1948.—Section 501 of the
4 United States Information and Educational Exchange Act
5 of 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1461) is amended to read as follows:

6 **“SEC. 501. GENERAL AUTHORIZATION.**

7 “(a) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ABROAD.—
8 The Chief Executive Officer of the United States Agency
9 for Global Media (referred to in this section as the
10 ‘USAGM CEO’), working through its component net-
11 works, is authorized to provide for the preparation, and
12 dissemination abroad, of information about the United
13 States, its people, and its policies, through press, publica-
14 tions, radio, motion pictures, the internet, and other infor-
15 mation media, and through information centers, instruc-
16 tors abroad, and other direct or indirect means of commu-
17 nication. Except as provided in subsection (b), any such
18 information (other than ‘Problems of Communism’ and
19 the ‘English Teaching Forum’, which may be sold by the
20 Government Publishing Office) may not be disseminated
21 within the United States, its territories, or possessions.
22 However, such information may be made available in the
23 English language at the Department of State, at all rea-
24 sonable times following its release as information abroad,
25 for examination only by representatives of United States

1 press associations, newspapers, magazines, radio systems,
2 and stations, and by research students and scholars, and
3 on request, shall be made available for examination by
4 Members of Congress.

5 “(b) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION WITHIN THE
6 UNITED STATES.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The USAGM CEO shall
8 make available to the Archivist of the United States
9 (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Archivist’), for
10 domestic distribution, motion pictures, films, video,
11 audio, and other materials prepared for dissemina-
12 tion abroad beginning 12 years after the date on
13 which—

14 “(A) such material was initially dissemi-
15 nated abroad; or

16 “(B) the material was prepared, if such
17 material was never disseminated abroad.

18 “(2) REIMBURSEMENT.—The USAGM CEO
19 shall be reimbursed for any expenses resulting from
20 the implementation of paragraph (1). Such reim-
21 bursement shall be credited to the applicable appro-
22 priation of the United States Agency for Global
23 Media.

24 “(3) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ARCHIVIST.—
25 The Archivist—

1 “(A) shall be the official custodian of the
2 material described in paragraph (1);

3 “(B) shall promulgate regulations to en-
4 sure that persons seeking the release of such
5 material—

6 “(i) have secured necessary United
7 States rights and licenses; and

8 “(ii) have paid a fee, in accordance
9 with section 2116(c) of title 44, United
10 States Code, which is sufficient to cover
11 the costs incurred by the Archivist to pro-
12 vide such material to such persons; and

13 “(C) all fees collected pursuant to subpara-
14 graph (B)(ii) are paid into, administered, and
15 expended as part of the National Archives
16 Trust Fund.

17 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
18 tion may be construed to require the USAGM CEO to
19 make material disseminated abroad available in any for-
20 mat other than in the format disseminated abroad.”.

21 (b) FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FIS-
22 CAL YEARS 1986 AND 1987.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 208 of the Foreign
24 Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1986 and

1 1987 (22 U.S.C. 1461-1a) is amended to read as
2 follows:

5 "(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in sub-
6 sections (b) and (c) and in section 501 of the United
7 States Information and Educational Exchange Act of
8 1948 (22 U.S.C. 1461)—

9 “(1) amounts appropriated to the United States
10 Agency for Global Media or its component networks
11 (referred to collectively in this section as ‘USAGM’)
12 may not be used to influence public opinion in the
13 United States; and

14 “(2) no program material prepared by USAGM
15 may be distributed within the United States.

16 "(b) EXEMPTION.—The limitation under subsection
17 (a) shall not apply to programs carried out pursuant to
18 the Mutual Educational and Cultural Exchange Act of
19 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2451 et seq.).

20 “(c) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Nothing in this section
21 may be construed to prohibit any employee of the United
22 States Agency for Global Media from responding to inquir-
23 ies from members of the public about USAGM operations,
24 policies, or programs.”.

“Sec. 208. Ban on domestic activities of the United States Agency for Global Media.”.

1