

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1498

To require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish the Emerging Technology Standards-Setting Task Force, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 29, 2021

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To require the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy to establish the Emerging Technology Standards-Setting Task Force, 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 “Technology Standards
5 Task Force Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF EMERGING TECHNOLOGY**
7 **STANDARDS-SETTING TASK FORCE.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
2 Science and Technology Policy shall establish a task
3 force on setting emerging technology standards.

4 (2) DESIGNATION.—The task force established
5 under paragraph (1) shall be known as the “Emerg-
6 ing Technology Standards-Setting Task Force” (in
7 this section referred to as the “Task Force”).

8 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Task Force shall be
10 composed of members as follows:

11 (A) The Director.

12 (B) At least two individuals selected by the
13 Secretary of Commerce, one whom—

14 (i) at least one shall be selected by the
15 Secretary to represent the Department of
16 Commerce generally; and

17 (ii) at least one shall be selected by
18 the Secretary to represent the National In-
19 stitute of Standards and Technology.

20 (C) At least one individual selected by the
21 Secretary of State to represent the Department
22 of State.

23 (D) At least one individual selected by the
24 Secretary of Defense to represent the Depart-
25 ment of Defense.

1 (E) At least one individual selected by the
2 Secretary of Energy to represent the Depart-
3 ment of Energy.

4 (F) At least one individual selected by the
5 Secretary of Labor to represent the Department
6 of Labor.

7 (G) At least one individual selected by the
8 Secretary of Transportation to represent the
9 Department of Transportation.

10 (H) At least one individual selected by the
11 Attorney General to represent the Department
12 of Justice.

13 (I) At least one individual selected by the
14 Secretary of the Treasury to represent the De-
15 partment of the Treasury.

16 (2) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the
17 Task Force shall be the Director.

18 (c) DUTIES.—

19 (1) STRATEGIC PLAN.—Not later than one year
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Task
21 Force shall develop a long-term strategic plan for
22 the United States to lead emerging technology
23 standards-setting processes.

24 (2) ADDITIONAL DUTIES.—In carrying out
25 paragraph (1), the Task Force shall—

1 (A) assess which technology standards
2 (such as fifth and sixth generation wireless net-
3 working technology and artificial intelligence)
4 have the greatest effect on national security and
5 economic competitiveness;

6 (B) describe and analyze the ways in which
7 standards setting processes can be misused by
8 governments for protectionist ends and human
9 rights abuses;

10 (C) establish and execute a strategy to en-
11 sure credibility and engagement with inter-
12 national institutions; and

13 (D) develop a list of allies and partners
14 with which to align with respect to the strategy
15 to be established and executed under subpara-
16 graph (B).

17 (d) ENGAGEMENT.—In carrying out the duties of the
18 Task Force, the Task Force shall engage with academia
19 and the private sector.

20 (e) STAFF.—The Chairperson of the Task Force may
21 appoint or delegate an executive director and such other
22 additional personnel as may be necessary to enable the
23 Task Force to perform its duties.

○