



U.S. CONGRESSMAN
FRENCH HILL
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Providing Resources and Oversight to Ensure Confidentiality of Those who serve (PROTECT) Act

Rep. French Hill (AR-02) and Rep. Daniel Goldman (NY-10)

Strengthening Data Security to Prevent Targeted Threats Against Public Officials

The Providing Resources and Oversight to Ensure Confidentiality of Those who serve (PROTECT) Act directs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to develop and disseminate best practices for protecting the personally identifiable information (PII) of public servants across all levels of government.

As threats against public officials continue to rise, securing sensitive personal information is essential to protecting those who serve and maintaining the integrity of public institutions.

Why This Matters

Public servants are increasingly targeted through doxxing, harassment, and political violence enabled by publicly available personal information.

- **Minnesota Political Assassination (2025):** Minnesota State Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband were murdered in their home, and State Senator John Hoffman and his wife were shot in a coordinated attack at their home. The suspect carried out targeted attacks at their homes after finding their information on public websites.
- **Attack on Justice Brett Kavanaugh (2022):** An armed individual traveled to Justice Kavanaugh's home intending to assassinate him after locating his residence using publicly available information.
- **Attack on Paul Pelosi (2022):** An attacker broke into the home of Speaker Nancy Pelosi and violently assaulted her husband while searching for the Speaker, targeting a private residence.
- **Judge Esther Salas' Family (2020):** A disgruntled individual went to the home of a federal judge and killed her son, Daniel Anderl, after using publicly available information to locate the family.
- **Congressional Baseball Practice Shooting (2017):** House Majority Leader Steve Scalise and several others were shot during a targeted attack on Members of Congress at a baseball practice in Alexandria, Virginia.

These incidents reflect a broader and growing threat: individuals using publicly accessible information to locate and target public officials and their families.

What the PROTECT Act Does:

- **Establishes DHS Guidance:**
 - Requires DHS to develop and share guidance on best practices for handling personally identifiable information of government personnel.
- **Focuses on Public Servant Safety:**
 - Includes recommended actions that officers, officials, employees, and contractors can take to protect themselves and their personal information.
- **Applies Across All Levels of Government:**
 - Disseminates guidance to federal, state, local, territorial, and tribal governments.

Public servants at every level are increasingly targeted through doxxing, harassment, and other threats enabled by the exposure of personal data. However, there is currently no standardized, government-wide approach to protecting this information.

By leveraging DHS expertise, this bill ensures that governments across the country have access to clear, actionable guidance to better safeguard sensitive data and protect the individuals who serve their communities.

The Gap This Bill Fills

There is currently no standardized, government-wide approach to protecting public servants' personal data. Agencies often rely on inconsistent or outdated practices, leaving vulnerabilities that can be exploited.

This bill equips agencies with actionable guidance so they can make informed, proactive decisions to reduce risk and prevent targeted violence.

The Bottom Line

Protecting public servants is not just about security, it is about preserving public service itself.

By equipping governments with best practices to safeguard personal data, the PROTECT Act helps reduce the risk of targeted violence, protects families, and ensures that those who serve can do so safely.

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