

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5529

To require a study of the risk of space debris impacting a metropolitan area, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

Mr. SANTOS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

A BILL

To require a study of the risk of space debris impacting a metropolitan area, 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. STUDY OF RISK OF SPACE DEBRIS IMPACTING**

4 **A METROPOLITAN AREA.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
6 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Com-
7 merce, in consultation with the Administrator of the Fed-
8 eral Emergency Management Agency, the Administrator
9 of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration,
10 and the Secretary of Defense, shall carry out a study to

1 examine the risk of space debris impacting a metropolitan
2 area within the next 25 years.

3 (b) CONTENTS.—The study required under sub-
4 section (a) shall address the following:

5 (1) In the next 25 years, the probability of a
6 space-based, manmade object impacting a populated
7 area exceeding 1 million inhabitants.

8 (2) The ability to predict such an incident.

9 (3) The ability to warn the affected area, in-
10 cluding regarding the amount of time needed to do
11 so.

12 (4) Would an evacuation process be possible,
13 and if so, how such would be carried out.

14 (5) How could relief via a Federal response be
15 provided, and an identification of which agencies
16 would be tasked with so responding.

17 (6) Options to defend against an imminent im-
18 pact.

19 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 28
20 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
21 Secretary of Commerce shall submit to the Committee on
22 Science, Space, and Technology, the Committee on Home-
23 land Security, the Committee on Armed Services, and the
24 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of
25 Representatives and the Committee on Commerce,

1 Science, and Transportation, the Committee on Homeland
2 Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on
3 Armed Services of the Senate a report containing the re-
4 sults of the study required under subsection (a).

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