

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4551

To provide a cause of action for persons injured by rioting.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2020

Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mrs. LOEFFLER) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide a cause of action for persons injured by rioting.

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 “Rioting Restitution
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. CIVIL ACTION FOR INJURIES.**

7 (a) CAUSE OF ACTION.—A person who suffers per-
8 sonal injury or whose property is damaged by a riot (as
9 defined in section 2102 of title 18, United States Code)
10 may bring a civil action in an appropriate district court
11 of the United States against any person who—

1 (1) caused the personal injury or property dam-
2 age;

3 (2) traveled in interstate or foreign commerce
4 or used any facility of interstate or foreign com-
5 merce, including the mail, telegraph, telephone,
6 radio, or television, with the intent to—

7 (A) incite the riot;

8 (B) organize, promote, encourage, partici-
9 pate in, or carry on the riot;

10 (C) commit any act of violence in further-
11 ance of the riot; or

12 (D) aid or abet any person in inciting or
13 participating in or carrying on the riot or com-
14 mitting any act of violence in furtherance of the
15 riot; and

16 (3) during the course of, or following, any such
17 travel or use performed or attempted to perform any
18 other overt act for any purpose specified in subpara-
19 graph (A), (B), (C), or (D) of paragraph (2).

20 (b) **TREBLE DAMAGES.**—A defendant in a civil action
21 brought under subsection (a) shall be subject to treble
22 damages.

○