

U.S. Rep. Gallagher, Colleagues: Introduce counter-drone legislation to protect Americans

Posted on Monday, Jun 26, 2023

>> **WisPolitics is now on the State Affairs network. Get custom keyword notifications, bill tracking and all WisPolitics content. [Get the app or access via desktop.](#)**

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Reps. Mike Gallagher (R-WI), Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA), Mike Johnson (R-LA), and Troy Carter (D-LA) introduced the *Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023*. If enacted, this [bill](#) would improve the federal government's ability to safeguard Americans from threats posed by unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) by reauthorizing existing authorities and creating new opportunities for federal agencies to coordinate counter-drone measures at the state and local level.

Currently, the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice counter threats posed by unmanned aircraft through authorities established in the *Preventing Emerging Threats Act of 2018*. For example, if a drone flies over an airport, these federal agencies are permitted to intercept it. Those authorities are set to expire in September.

“Drones are useful pieces of technology, but in the hands of bad actors, they can pose a serious danger to Americans,” **said Rep. Gallagher.** “As these devices become more accessible and advanced, it’s critical we give law enforcement the tools they need to address this evolving threat. This commonsense bill reauthorizes existing authorities and ensures law enforcement officials have the tools they need to keep Americans safe, whether they’re at an airport or a Packers game.”

“It’s no secret that commercial drones are becoming more and more commonplace in our communities,” **said Rep. Houlahan.** “Whether that be at soccer games or school functions, near military bases or airports, we need to make sure that there are sensible guardrails in place to protect Americans from potential threats. Our

bipartisan, bicameral legislation builds upon existing law to address this rapidly changing technology. I'm proud to work with my colleagues across the aisle, in both the House and Senate, to pass this commonsense legislation."

"As the market for unmanned aircraft systems expands, it is critically important that our law enforcement agencies are equipped with the tools necessary to counteract any potential threats," **said Rep. Johnson.** "I'm proud to join this bipartisan group of lawmakers in sponsoring this bill."

"In today's world, technology is rapidly advancing, and with that progress comes new challenges. As unmanned aircraft systems become more prevalent in our daily lives, we must ensure that the safety and security of Americans are protected," **said Rep. Carter.** "Our bipartisan legislation aims to create a robust framework that empowers federal agencies to effectively counter the threats posed by drones. By working together, we can safeguard our communities and preserve the peace of mind that every American deserves."

The bipartisan legislation also protects major businesses including sports associations. In May, the National Football League (NFL), Major League Baseball (MLB), National Association for Stock Car Auto Racing (NASCAR), and National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) wrote a [joint letter](#) to House and Senate leadership in support of the *Safeguarding the Homeland from the Threats Posed by Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act of 2023*.

The bipartisan legislation has a companion bill in the Senate, which was [introduced](#) by Senators Gary Peters (D-MI), Ron Johnson (R-WI), Kyrsten Sinema (I-AZ), and John Hoeven (R-ND).

Read the full text of the bill [here](#).

Read a section-by-section summary of the bill [here](#).