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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalty enhancements for committing certain offenses while in disguise, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. McDOWELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 18, United States Code, to provide penalty enhancements for committing certain offenses while in disguise, 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 “Unmasking Hamas
5 Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Universities and colleges across America, in-
2 cluding Columbia University, California State Poly-
3 technic University, the University of New Mexico,
4 and Barnard College, have been increasingly tar-
5 geted by violent student protests in the name of
6 Hamas.

7 (2) Violent student protests at universities and
8 colleges across the country have caused significant
9 damage to campus property and have barred univer-
10 sity and college students from accessing educational
11 services.

12 (3) Violent protestors continue to utilize masks
13 as a disguise to cover their identity in order to evade
14 the law.

15 (4) Support for designated terrorist organiza-
16 tions, antisemitism, and calling for the genocide of
17 Jewish people have no place on our university and
18 college campuses.

19 (5) Iran and Hamas-backed organizations part-
20 ner with United States-based anti-Israel organiza-
21 tions to fund anti-Israel demonstrations and pro-
22 tests.

23 (6) During Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin
24 Netanyahu's address to a joint session of Congress
25 in 2024, Hamas-sympathetic masked protestors van-

1 dalized Federal property in Washington, D.C.,
2 across from Union Station.

3 (7) Pro-Hamas advocates have anonymously
4 vandalized multiple memorials and commemorative
5 statues across Washington, D.C., including the Lin-
6 coln Memorial and the General Lafayette Statue
7 outside of the White House.

8 (8) Anonymous bomb threats to synagogues
9 dramatically increased in the months following
10 Hamas's October 7, 2023, attack on Israel.

11 (9) Police officers disbanding unlawful assem-
12 blies have been subjected to violent confrontations by
13 masked protestors.

14 (10) Masked protests have repeatedly led to the
15 desecration of public property.

16 **SEC. 3. INTERFERENCE WITH PROTECTED RIGHTS WHILE**
17 **IN DISGUISE.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 13 of title 18, United
19 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 250 the
20 following:

21 **“§ 251. Interference with protected rights while in**
22 **disguise**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Whoever, whether or not acting
24 under color of law, while in disguise, including while wear-
25 ing a mask, injures, oppresses, threatens, or intimidates

1 any person in any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Pos-
2 session, or District in the free exercise or enjoyment of
3 any right or privilege secured to him by the Constitution
4 or laws of the United States, or because of his having so
5 exercised the same, shall be fined under this title, impris-
6 oned not more than 15 years, or both.

7 “(b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
8 tion shall be construed so as to deter any law enforcement
9 officer from lawfully carrying out the duties of his office;
10 and no law enforcement officer shall be considered to be
11 in violation of this section for lawfully carrying out the
12 duties of his office or lawfully enforcing ordinances and
13 laws of the United States, the District of Columbia, any
14 of the several States, or any political subdivision of a
15 State. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term
16 ‘law enforcement officer’ means any officer of the United
17 States, the District of Columbia, a State, or political sub-
18 division of a State, who is empowered by law to conduct
19 investigations of, or make arrests because of, offenses
20 against the United States, the District of Columbia, a
21 State, or a political subdivision of a State.”.

22 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections
23 for chapter 13 of title 18, United States Code, is amended
24 by inserting after the item related to section 250 the fol-
25 lowing:

“251. Interference with protected rights while in disguise.”.

1 **SEC. 4. DESTROYING BUILDINGS OR PROPERTY WITHIN**
2 **SPECIAL MARITIME AND TERRITORIAL JU-**
3 **RISDICTION WHILE IN DISGUISE.**

4 Section 1363 of title 18, United States Code, is
5 amended by adding at the end the following: “Whoever,
6 during the commission of an offense under this section,
7 wears a disguise, including a mask, shall, in addition to
8 any term of imprisonment otherwise imposed under this
9 section, be imprisoned for 2 years.”.