Negative: Social Media Visa Screening – Good

By Jonathan T. Helton

AFF Plan repeals rules that would require millions of immigrants to divulge their social media information, phone numbers, email addresses, and past travel information. In addition, they repeal requirements that immigrants tell if their family has ever been linked to terrorist activities. The NEG will argue that – apart from the obvious foolhardiness of the last requirement being repealed – there is no need for a change in policy. The harms the AFF presents are (1) Non-unique to other policies President Trump has instituted, and (2) justified to some extent. There is a legitimate reason to screen all potential immigrants: To prevent terrorist infiltration. The negative philosophy is that security requires proactivity, and the AFF Plan relies on a system that has failed in the past. Multiple empirics will be provided as to why there is a viable threat of terrorism from immigrants.

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NEGATIVE BRIEF: Social Media Visa Screening – Good

NEGATIVE PHILOSOPHY

Security requires proactivity. Prevention of a problem is preferable to reaction.

Michelle Drolet 2016 (seasoned security expert with 26 years of experience providing organizations with IT security technology services) 21 October 2016 “7 steps to proactive security” <https://www.csoonline.com/article/3133370/security/7-steps-to-proactive-security.html>

“The key to securing against this threat lies in a common metaphor—if a ship has a hole, it is better to patch the breach than bail the water. Effective cybersecurity means being proactive, getting ahead of the problem and addressing the issue at its core rather than operating in a reactive fashion, constantly fixing the symptoms.”

HARMS / SIGNIFICANCE

1. Tourism decline are non-unique to social media vetting

Tourism and immigration have been declining since Trump took office

[Nahal Toos](http://www.politico.com/staff/nahal-toosi)i, [Ted Hesson](http://www.politico.com/staff/ted-hesson), and [Sarah F](http://www.politico.com/staff/sarah-frostenson)rostenson 2018 ([Nahal Toos](http://www.politico.com/staff/nahal-toosi)i: Foreign Affairs Correspondent. [Ted Hesson](http://www.politico.com/staff/ted-hesson): He holds a master’s degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism and a bachelor’s degree from Boston College. [Sarah F](http://www.politico.com/staff/sarah-frostenson)rostenson: Graphics Editor) 3 April 2018 “Foreign visas plunge under Trump” <https://www.politico.com/interactives/2018/trump-travel-ban-visas-decline/>

By one measure, the U.S. granted 13 percent fewer visitor visas over the past 12 months when compared with fiscal year 2016, according to State Department data analyzed by POLITICO — a downward trend that appears to have accelerated in the past six months. It’s unclear whether the drop is due to fewer people applying or more rejections of applications. The cause is likely some combination of both. The State Department furnishes data on how many visitor visas are granted per country, but releases only limited information on how many applications are received or refused.

Alternate cause: Travel Ban impedes tourism and immigration as well

Mia Taylor 2017 (She is an award-winning travel writer with more than two decades of experience) 28 October 2017 “The Trump Travel Ban's Impact on Tourism” <https://www.travelpulse.com/news/impacting-travel/the-trump-travel-ban-s-impact-on-tourism.html>

Each time President Trump issues a new version of his travel ban, the U.S. travel industry and the economy takes a hit. That’s the assessment of several industry insiders, supported by studies showing there has been an overall decline in the number of visitors to this country.

2. A/T “Slows down approval process” –No delays

Social media screening won’t add any time to visa approval process

Jack Corrigan 2018 (He covers emerging government technology and IT policy for Nextgov. Nextgov is produced by Government Executive Media Group.) APRIL 2, 2018 “Social Media Screening Won’t Slow Down the Visa Process, State Department Says” <https://www.nextgov.com/cio-briefing/2018/04/social-media-screening-wont-slow-down-visa-process-state-department-says/147134/>

The State Department wants to screen five years worth of emails, phone logs and social media accounts for every visa applicant, but that won’t add any time to the approval process, according to an agency official.

3. No privacy invasion. Social media is viewable to everyone anyway.

Visa applicants already divulge information to DHS anyway - part of the normal immigration process.

Nolan Rappaport 2017 (Nolan Rappaport was detailed to the House Judiciary Committee as an executive branch immigration law expert for three years; he subsequently served as an immigration counsel for the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims for four years. Prior to working on the Judiciary Committee, he wrote decisions for the Board of Immigration Appeals for 20 years.) 2 October 2017 “Homeland Security searching some social media doesn't violate privacy” <http://thehill.com/opinion/immigration/353479-homeland-securitys-social-media-searches-dont-actually-violate-privacy>

The Electronic Frontier Foundation and the ACLU have filed a [lawsuit](https://www.aclu.org/legal-document/alasaad-v-duke-complaint) to stop DHS from searching mobile electronic devices at the border in violation of the [Fourth Amendment](https://www.law.cornell.edu/constitution/fourth_amendment) to the U.S. Constitution.  I expect them to challenge social media checks on the same basis. The Fourth Amendment states that “the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated.”  But this only applies to situations where an individual has “a reasonable expectation of privacy,” which is not an easy concept [to apply to social media information](http://www.lawschool.cornell.edu/research/JLPP/upload/Schmidt-final.pdf).   In any case, there is no expectation of privacy in immigration processes.  Most, and perhaps all, of the persons involved in immigration processes have to authorize DHS to investigate them and the information they provide.

4. Justified by the threat

Hateful rhetoric online is a good reason to deny visas: They won’t likely be productive or useful citizens.

Dan Cadman 2018 (retired INS / ICE official with thirty years of government experience; served as a senior supervisor and manager at headquarters, as well as at field offices both domestically and abroad.) 3 April 2018 “'Extreme Vetting' and Social Media Inquiries” <https://cis.org/Cadman/Extreme-Vetting-and-Social-Media-Inquiries>

As to Shamsi's point about political speech: Yes, most terrorists see the world through political, or politico-religious lenses. Terrorist acts are, at their heart, political. But there is a bright line divide between acceptable and unacceptable; terrorists clearly cross the line. But even stopping short of that, when people go online to express their hatred of the West, and Western ways of living— or, more specifically, American cultural values and mores — is it unfair to conclude that they are almost certainly incapable of assimilation into the body politic (there's that inescapable word again), and ask why we would wish to grant them permission to enter or reside here? Again, given past history, doesn't that represent an unnecessary clear and present danger to our communities?

Harms of “not” checking outweigh – learn from history and 9/11

Dan Cadman 2018 (retired INS / ICE official with thirty years of government experience; served as a senior supervisor and manager at headquarters, as well as at field offices both domestically and abroad.) 3 April 2018 “'Extreme Vetting' and Social Media Inquiries” <https://cis.org/Cadman/Extreme-Vetting-and-Social-Media-Inquiries>

It seems to me that not checking everyone out would be by far the greater sin, one approaching the level of misfeasance, given past history — and I believe this to be true even knowing that some people will alter or delete messages and profiles in light of this new vetting check. After all, how stupid are you if you fail to learn from history? We have an entire new global regimen at airports that was derived solely from the events of September 11, 2001, because we were determined not to let the lessons of that day go unheard. It is often inconvenient, but is there anyone out there who doesn't think it has saved many lives all over the world in the past decade-and-a-half?

Background checks of immigrants is essential to preventing terrorism and harm to law enforcement personnel

Department of Justice 2018 (Press release form the Office of Public Affairs) 16 January 2018 “DOJ, DHS Report: Three Out of Four Individuals Convicted of International Terrorism and Terrorism-Related Offenses were Foreign-Born” <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/doj-dhs-report-three-out-four-individuals-convicted-international-terrorism-and-terrorism>

This report reveals an indisputable sobering reality—our immigration system has undermined our national security and public safety,” said Attorney General Sessions.  “And the information in this report is only the tip of the iceberg: we currently have terrorism-related investigations against thousands of people in the United States, including hundreds of people who came here as refugees.  Our law enforcement professionals do amazing work, but it is simply not reasonable to keep asking them to risk their lives to enforce the law while we admit thousands every year without sufficient knowledge about their backgrounds.  The pillars of President Trump’s immigration policy—securing our porous borders, moving to a merit-based immigration system that ends the use of diversity visas and chain migration, and enforcing our nation’s laws—will make their jobs easier and make the United States a safer place.

San Bernardino terror attack illustrates why we need better background screening

Press Release from Senator Jeanne Shaheen 2015 (Democratic Senator from New Hampshire) 15 December 2015 “Shaheen Leads Letter to DHS Calling for Social Media Background Checks in Visa Screening Process” <https://www.shaheen.senate.gov/news/press/shaheen-leads-letter-to-dhs-calling-for-social-media-background-checks-in-visa-screening-process>

This afternoon, Senator Jeanne Shaheen sent a letter to Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Jeh Johnson urging his agency to immediately conduct social media background checks as a part of the screening process for U.S. visa determinations. The letter was signed by 24 of her colleagues in the Senate and follows reports that the Department of Homeland Security didn’t identify radical social media statements made by the female assailant involved in the San Bernardino terrorist attack, during her fiancé visa determination process.

Lack of adequate screening left us “woefully vulnerable”

Department of Justice 2018 (Press release form the Office of Public Affairs) 16 January 2018 “DOJ, DHS Report: Three Out of Four Individuals Convicted of International Terrorism and Terrorism-Related Offenses were Foreign-Born” <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/doj-dhs-report-three-out-four-individuals-convicted-international-terrorism-and-terrorism>

My top priority as Secretary of Homeland Security is to ensure the safety and security of the American people,” said Secretary Nielsen. “This report is a clear reminder of why we cannot continue to rely on immigration policy based on pre-9/11 thinking that leaves us woefully vulnerable to foreign-born terrorists, and why we must examine our visa laws and continue to intensify screening and vetting of individuals traveling to the United States to prevent terrorists, criminals, and other dangerous individuals from reaching our country. Without legislative change, DHS will continue to see thousands of terrorists a year attempt to enter the United States, and while we must be right every time, the terrorists only need to be lucky once.  Therefore, DHS has personnel deployed around the world and along our borders working with our global and domestic law enforcement partners to stop terrorists before they enter the homeland.

5. Not much impact

A/T “Disclosure mandated” – An immigrant’s refusal to hand over information wouldn’t be sufficient cause for deportation.

Fox News 2018. 30 March 2018 “Some visa applicants may have to fork over social media information to State Dept.”<http://www.foxnews.com/politics/2018/03/30/some-visa-applicants-may-have-to-fork-over-social-media-information-to-state-dept.html>

Don Crocetti, a former senior fraud investigator for U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, said an individual’s refusal to turn over their social media accounts couldn’t alone be used to deny approval.

“The use of social media is a wrench in their toolbox. It’s not that you use that same wrench for everything you do, but it’s a wrench, it’s a different-sized tool, and you have use that selectively,” he said.

No big deal: They’ve been using social media for years

Alex Nowrasteh 2015 (immigration policy analyst at the Cato Institute’s Center for Global Liberty and Prosperity) 15 December 2015 “Secret Policy to Ignore Social Media? Not So Fast” (Brackets added) <https://www.cato.org/blog/secret-policy-ignore-social-media-not-so-fast>

[He is quoting Charles Kuck at [Kuck Immigration Partners](http://www.immigration.net/our-people/charles-h-kuck.html) in Atlanta, Georgia]  
USCIS [U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services]and other government immigration agencies have been using social media for at least the last five years in naturalization, green card, and visa cases.  It is disingenuous of USCIS to now say they have not used information gleaned from these sites to question and even deny applications.  We have advised clients for years of this practice by USCIS, ICE, and other DHS agencies as well as by the Department of State.

DISADVANTAGES

1. Terrorist Infiltration

GAMEPLAN: This Disadvantage will be broken down into three parts. The first addresses the need for social media screening, the second addresses the efficacy of it, and the third addresses the consequences of not-doing it by voting AFF.

PART ONE: The Need - Significant terrorist infiltration from foreigners

3 out of 4 convicted terrorists in US federal courts were foreign born

Department of Justice 2018 (Press release form the Office of Public Affairs) 16 January 2018 “DOJ, DHS Report: Three Out of Four Individuals Convicted of International Terrorism and Terrorism-Related Offenses were Foreign-Born” <https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/doj-dhs-report-three-out-four-individuals-convicted-international-terrorism-and-terrorism>

Today, the Department of Justice (DOJ) and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) released a report, revealing that three out of every four, or 402, individuals convicted of international terrorism-related charges in U.S. federal courts between September 11, 2001, and December 31, 2016 were foreign-born. Over the same period, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement removed approximately 1,716 aliens with national security concerns. Further, in 2017 alone DHS had 2,554 encounters with individuals on the terrorist watch list (also known as the FBI’s Terrorist Screening Database) traveling to the United States.

Screening system was broken before the new vetting because it didn’t use social media

Marc A. Thiessen 2015 (Marc Thiessen is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) where he studies and writes about American presidential leadership and counterterrorism. He also writes about general US foreign and defense policy issues and contributes to the AEIdeas blog.) 22 December 2015 “US lets in four times as many suspected terrorists as it keeps out” <http://www.aei.org/publication/u-s-lets-in-four-times-as-many-suspected-terrorists-as-it-keeps-out/>

Our screening system is badly broken, and we have an administration that is more concerned with enforcing political correctness than protecting the American people. We know that terrorists use social media to spread propaganda, recruit operatives and plan attacks. Yet MSNBC reports that in 2011, officials in the Department of Homeland Security proposed a policy of scouring social media of visa applicants to look for terrorist ties. The proposal went through a year-long review and was about to be issued as official policy — when it was quashed by senior officials.

Massive threat: 9500 revoked visas on terror suspects who were let into the country

Marc A. Thiessen 2015 (Marc Thiessen is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) where he studies and writes about American presidential leadership and counterterrorism. He also writes about general US foreign and defense policy issues and contributes to the AEIdeas blog.) 22 December 2015 “US lets in four times as many suspected terrorists as it keeps out” <http://www.aei.org/publication/u-s-lets-in-four-times-as-many-suspected-terrorists-as-it-keeps-out/>

The State Department admitted to Congress last week that it had revoked the visas of 9,500 individuals since 2001 who were believed to have either engaged in terrorist activities or were associated with a terrorist organization. Think about what that means: Nearly 10,000 people considered too dangerous to enter the United States because of suspected terrorist activity or association were mistakenly granted visas to lawfully enter the country. They successfully penetrated our defenses, beat our screening system and got their hands on U.S. visas.

And then we lost track of those 9500 potential terrorists. Clearly something needs to be done.

Marc A. Thiessen 2015 (Marc Thiessen is a resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) where he studies and writes about American presidential leadership and counterterrorism. He also writes about general US foreign and defense policy issues and contributes to the AEIdeas blog.) 22 December 2015 “US lets in four times as many suspected terrorists as it keeps out” <http://www.aei.org/publication/u-s-lets-in-four-times-as-many-suspected-terrorists-as-it-keeps-out/>

Worse still, after officials caught their mistake and revoked the visas after the fact, they lost track of the visa holders. Jason Chaffetz (R-Utah), chairman of the House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, pressed Michele Thoren Bond, assistant secretary for the Bureau of Consular Affairs, to explain what had happened to the 9,500. She replied: “I don’t know.”

**[END QUOTE.** **Later in the article he goes on to say QUOTE:**]

And let’s be clear: Those 9,500 visa revocations are just the suspected terrorists we know about. How many more terrorists are out there who also beat our screening system but officials did not figure out their mistake and revoke the visas?

There was a failure rate of one terrorist denied to four let in

Marc A. Thiessen 2015 (resident fellow at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) where he studies and writes about American presidential leadership and counterterrorism.) 22 Dec 2015 “US lets in four times as many suspected terrorists as it keeps out” <http://www.aei.org/publication/u-s-lets-in-four-times-as-many-suspected-terrorists-as-it-keeps-out/>

An examination of [State Department records](http://travel.state.gov/content/visas/en/law-and-policy/statistics/annual-reports.html) by American Enterprise Institute researcher Justin Lang found that since 2001, the State Department had denied visas to just 2,231 individuals because the applicant was suspected of terrorist ties or activity. Yet during that same period, the State Department granted U.S. visas to 9,500 people who it later figured out posed a terrorist threat — and had to go back and retroactively revoke those individuals’ visas. The means our screening system is so bad, it let through more than four times as many suspected terrorists as it stopped. If a National Hockey League goalie let in more than four times as many goals as he blocked, he would be fired.

There are two ways terrorists commonly use social media to get out their message

1. Broadcast mode. It allows them to spread their message to many people at once.

Dr. James Jay Carafano 2015 (PhD; leading expert in national security and foreign policy challenges, is The Heritage Foundation’s Vice President, Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, E. W. Richardson Fellow, and Director of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies. A 25-year Army veteran and West Point graduate) 25 October 2015 “Social Media and Terrorism” <https://www.thecipherbrief.com/social-media-and-terrorism>

Most social networks conform to what is called the “power curve,” with a few contributors dominating the preponderance of activity on the network. This “high ground” of influence is called “broadcast mode.” Those who can get a dominant influencer to convey their message have a great competitive advantage when it comes to driving the conversation on the network.

Social media gives terrorists a way to spread their message *en masse*

Dr. James Jay Carafano 2015 (Dr. James Jay Carafano, a leading expert in national security and foreign policy challenges, is The Heritage Foundation’s Vice President, Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, E. W. Richardson Fellow, and Director of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies. A 25-year Army veteran and West Point graduate, Carafano has written several books. His most recent, “Surviving the End” addresses emergency preparedness.) 25 October 2015 “Social Media and Terrorism” <https://www.thecipherbrief.com/social-media-and-terrorism>

Long before ISIS, transnational terrorist groups had discovered the use of the Internet and social networks. Terrorists went online for recruiting, fund-raising, mission-planning, intelligence gathering, and propagandizing about their cause.  Yet, the efforts of ISIS have garnered unusual attention. In part, that is because their activities are both vigorous and especially overt. More importantly, however, they reflect what makes social networks particularly powerful and influential—the synergy that occurs when online action is linked to a robust human web.

2. Conversation mode. It allows for personal communication, sometimes done in a public setting.

Dr. James Jay Carafano 2015 (Dr. James Jay Carafano, a leading expert in national security and foreign policy challenges, is The Heritage Foundation’s Vice President, Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, E. W. Richardson Fellow, and Director of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies. A 25-year Army veteran and West Point graduate, Carafano has written several books. His most recent, “Surviving the End” addresses emergency preparedness.) 25 October 2015 “Social Media and Terrorism” <https://www.thecipherbrief.com/social-media-and-terrorism>

There is also, however, a second high ground on social networks. That space is on the other far end of the curve called “conversation mode.” Something really interesting happens when networks scale down to very small groups. The level of participation among the members is more balanced. This allows for more high-quality conversations.

Example: ISIS uses both.

Dr. James Jay Carafano 2015 (Dr. James Jay Carafano, a leading expert in national security and foreign policy challenges, is The Heritage Foundation’s Vice President, Foreign and Defense Policy Studies, E. W. Richardson Fellow, and Director of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for International Studies. A 25-year Army veteran and West Point graduate, Carafano has written several books. His most recent, “Surviving the End” addresses emergency preparedness.) 25 October 2015 “Social Media and Terrorism” <https://www.thecipherbrief.com/social-media-and-terrorism>

ISIS works both ends of the curve. They want execution videos to go viral and grab the world’s attention. On the other hand, extremists also seek to lure individuals into small group conversation where they can attract new recruits or radicalize the other discussants. “Some of these conversations occur in publicly accessed social networking sites,” noted Michael Steinbach, the FBI’s Assistant Director for the Counterterrorism Division, before a Congressional Committee.

PART TWO: The Efficacy – Social media is effective at screening out terrorists

Social media information is very valuable for screening and vetting and we should use it

Report from the Homeland Security Committee of the House of Representatives 2017 (Chairman Michael McCaul (Texas), Rep. Michael Gallagher (Task Force Chairman, Wisconsin), Rep. Clay Higgins (Louisiana), Rep. John H. Rutherford (Florida Rep.), Thomas A. Garrett, Jr. (Virginia), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (Pennslyvania), and Rep. John M. Katko, (Ex Officio Advisor, New York), all are members of the Homeland Security Committee of the House of Representatives) December 2017 “FINAL REPORT FROM THE REPUBLICAN MEMBERS OF THE TASK FORCE ON DENYING TERRORISTS ENTRY TO THE UNITED STATES” <https://homeland.house.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/12/Task-Force-Report.pdf>

Challenge: As technology has continued to develop and more of our lives move online, a wealth of valuable information has become available, primarily on social media, that can be used to screen and vet foreign nationals seeking to come to the United States. In addition, information gathered from social media can be just as valuable as the biographic information traditionally used for screening and vetting. The U.S. government is not fully utilizing social media information for screening and vetting purposes.

DHS advocacy: Additional info collection will strengthen vetting process

Sewell Chan 2018 (international news editor at The New York Times, where he helps to direct global news coverage and to reach audiences worldwide; member of the Council on Foreign Relations) 30 March 2018 “14 Million Visitors to U.S. Face Social Media Screening” [https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/30/world/americas/travelers-visa-social media.html?module=ArrowsNav&contentCollection=Americas&action=keypress&region=FixedLeft&pgtype=article](https://www.nytimes.com/2018/03/30/world/americas/travelers-visa-social%20media.html?module=ArrowsNav&contentCollection=Americas&action=keypress&region=FixedLeft&pgtype=article)

“Maintaining robust screening standards for visa applicants is a dynamic practice that must adapt to emerging threats,” the State Department said in a statement. “We already request limited contact information, travel history, family member information, and previous addresses from all visa applicants. Collecting this additional information from visa applicants will strengthen our process for vetting these applicants and confirming their identity.”

Deters lying. With social media vetting in place, we can weed out those who falsify information -- an indicator of shady goings-on

David Inserra 2017 (Policy Analyst for Homeland Security and Cyber Security in the Douglas and Sarah Allison Center for Foreign Policy, of the Kathryn and Shelby Cullom Davis Institute for National Security and Foreign Policy, at The Heritage Foundation.) 12 April 2017 “The U.S. Should Tread Carefully on Social Media Vetting” <https://www.heritage.org/terrorism/report/the-us-should-tread-carefully-social-media-vetting>

One benefit of using social media as part of the vetting process is the ability to use false statements against dishonest travelers. If the U.S. discovers that a traveler to the U.S. did not provide his full and correct set of social media accounts, then that false statement can be used to prevent his entry, prosecute him, or deport him.

Efficacy: Social media screening is more effective - peeks around false information and misrepresentation

RT, a global news organization 2018 (With its first international news channel launched in 2005, RT is now a global, round-the-clock news network of eight TV channels, broadcasting news, current affairs and documentaries, with digital platforms in six languages and RUPTLY, the video news agency. Round-the-clock news channels in English, Arabic and Spanish, and documentary channel RTDoc, in English and Russian, broadcast from Moscow, while RT America airs from Washington, DC, and RT UK from London and RT France from Paris. Today, RT is available in more than 100 countries spanning five continents.) 2 April 2018 “‘Very damaging’ or inevitable? Lawyers assess US proposal to rummage through visitors’ social media” (Brackets added) <https://www.rt.com/usa/422988-lawyers-react-facebook-vetting-proposal/>

Elizabeth M. Klarin, a counsel with more than 15 years of experience in immigration, says that whatever the outcome for the proposal, chances are this issue is not going to go away. "If anything, I believe that social-media screening is going to become one of the key tools utilized by all US government agencies adjudicating applications for immigration benefits,"she told RT. Klarin believes a social-media account could help reveal a visa applicant's genuine background and intentions. "People think of social media as a platform to define themselves the way they want… to make themselves appear a certain way to friends, family, and even potential employers – but they don't often think through how that persona might conflict with the truth of their status, location, job, etc. Where social-media information leads to lines of inquiry that could evidence misrepresentation or fraud in an immigration application – or disclose information not specifically requested in the immigration application paperwork, but that can render you inadmissible – one could absolutely be denied a US visa."

Social media vetting offers proactivity, safeguards against fraud

US Customs and Border Protection 2018 “Visa Waiver Program Improvement and Terrorist Travel Prevention Act Frequently Asked Questions” January 5, 2018 <https://www.cbp.gov/travel/international-visitors/visa-waiver-program/visa-waiver-program-improvement-and-terrorist-travel-prevention-act-faq>

For example, social media may be used to support or corroborate a traveler’s application information, which will help facilitate legitimate travel by providing an additional means to adjudicate issues related to relevant questions about identity, occupation, previous travel, and other factors. It may also be used to identify potential deception or fraud.  Social media may help distinguish individuals of additional concern from those individuals whose information substantiates their eligibility for travel.

PART THREE: The Impacts - The U.S risks more terror attacks by repealing vetting requirements.

Empiric: New York and New Jersey bombings could have been prevented by social media vetting

Cortney O'Brien 2017 (She is Townhall's Managing News Editor ) 18 October 2017 “Social Media Screening for Immigrants Is About to Begin” <https://townhall.com/tipsheet/cortneyobrien/2017/10/18/social-media-screening-for-immigrants-is-about-to-start-n2396541>

The San Bernardino massacre may not have been prevented by monitoring the terrorists' social media accounts, but intelligence officials revealed that it very well may have prevented the bombings in New York and New Jersey last year. When the bomber, Ahmad Khan Rahami, was naturalized in 2011, his social media accounts went unmonitored. If authorities had taken a look, “they would have found multiple links to radical jihadi videos,” officials told NBC News.

Empiric: San Bernardino. Even if you think immigrants aren’t a threat, San Bernardino might have been prevented with social media vetting

Soufan Group 2017 (**Soufan Group** provides strategic security intelligence services to governments and multinational organizations) ‘Extreme Vetting’ and Social Media 5 May 2017 http://www.soufangroup.com/tsg-intelbrief-extreme-vetting-and-social-media/

The push for ‘extreme vetting’ of [visa and asylum requests for specific countries](http://www.soufangroup.com/tsg-intelbrief-blacklisting-countries-for-terrorism/) runs counter to the reality that the overwhelming majority of recent terror attacks in the U.S. [have not involved refugees](http://www.soufangroup.com/tsg-intelbrief-a-revised-executive-order/) or those on temporary visas. However, investigations after several attacks such as [San Bernardino](http://www.soufangroup.com/tsg-intelbrief-from-terror-in-san-bernardino-to-ohio-state/) have revealed relevant social media postings that in hindsight seem like obvious points that should have been checked.

Impact of terrorism: Destruction of productive resources

Sean Ross 2016 (Director of Business Development at Financial Poise™, an education and training website for investors, attorneys, accountants, and business owners/executives. He also operates an independent business consulting and writing practice; degrees in Economics and Political Economy from Regis University, where he specialized in monetary policy and theory.) 21 August 2016 “Top 5 Ways Terrorism Impacts the Economy”<https://www.investopedia.com/articles/markets/080216/top-5-ways-terrorism-impacts-economy.asp>

The impact of terrorism and war is always negative for the economy, and physical destruction is a large reason why. Productive resources that might have generated valuable goods and services are destroyed, while other resources are almost invariably diverted from other productive uses to bolster the military and defense. None of this creates wealth or adds to the standard of living, even though military spending is often erroneously cited as a stimulant; this is the "[broken window fallacy](https://www.investopedia.com/ask/answers/08/broken-window-fallacy.asp)" sometimes mentioned by economists.

Impact of terrorism: Damages tourism (the very thing the AFF wants to increase)

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Tourism is even more concerning. In France, for example, tourism accounts for approximately 7 to 8% of total gross domestic product (GDP). Vanguelis Panayotis, a director of MKG tourism consultancy, told Reuters that he expected a 30% decline in visitors to France in the month after the Nice attacks.

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