



SB 1220- Domestic Terrorism Overview:

Senate Bill 1220 aims to amend existing Idaho law to include a definition of domestic terrorism and replace the term "civil disorder" with it. This change carries similar penalties as terrorism, including prison sentencing and fines. The bill narrows the scope of antiterrorist efforts by focusing on crimes committed in Idaho in coordination with a designated [foreign terrorist organization](#).

Simple break down:

- Establishes a new felony – domestic terrorism
- Eliminate civil disorder – replace with the narrower “domestic terrorism”
- Replacing civil disorder with domestic terrorism is a problem defines domestic terrorism/terrorist as organizations/individuals associated with foreign terrorist organizations – which limits cops’ ability to investigate local/Idaho hate groups;

ACLU-ID's stance

The ACLU and ACLU of Idaho have consistently opposed the codification of a federal crime of "domestic terrorism" for over five decades, successfully preventing its establishment. SB 1220 raises the question of concern on how it may affect constitutionally protected activities, such as climate justice, reproductive justice, and anti-war protests, as its vague language and severe penalties may impede political dissent. The ACLU suggests that laws like SB 1220 should be narrowly tailored to serve specific government interests without infringing on constitutional rights.

Why should community be concerned:

- **Civil liberties will be affected.** If SB 1220 would be enacted it would expand authorities that law enforcement has abused to target marginalized communities that exercise their right to freedom of speech, protest and assembly. At the same time, the bill would limit law enforcement’s ability to investigate or prosecute local white supremacist groups in Idaho that use intimidation tactics and at times violence towards a community or individual.
- **Curtailing law enforcement’s authority.** It may inadvertently lead to increased violence, as it links terrorism to foreign actors, potentially leaving unaffiliated violent actors in Idaho uninvestigated or unpunished.
- **Unequally targets communities of color.** The bill raises surveillance and privacy concerns, expanding government authority to monitor communities and potentially enabling profiling based on race, nationality, and other protected categories.
- **SB 1220 protects certain groups.** The proposed legislation states that domestic terrorism can only be defined as domestic terrorism if there is a link to a foreign terrorist organization. That



means the following hate groups would not qualify as [domestic terrorists](#) if an act of crime were committed. (see also: <https://www.splcenter.org/states/idaho>)

- G416 Patriots, an anti-Muslim organization based in Meridian Idaho
- Patriot Front, a white Nationalist, neo-fascist hate group supremacist throughout Idaho
- Proud Boys, far-right, neo-fascist, white supremacist militant organization
- Northwest Hammerskin, a chapter of The Hammerskin Nation, one of the most violent white supremacist, neo-Nazi skinhead organizations in the U.S.
- **Unnecessary & Redundant.** We already have statutes that would prevent any crimes. In practice this legislation has language that would be impossible to enforce.

The ACLU of Idaho argues that existing laws already grant sufficient authority to address threats of violence, and the proposed bill could lead to government abuse of authority, particularly in the context of the current political climate.