

## ***“HOMELAND SECURITY DRONE ASSESSMENT AND ANALYSIS ACT”***

As Introduced on March 26, 2015 by Representative Watson Coleman (D-NJ)

### **FACT SHEET**

In May of 2008, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report entitled “Unmanned Aircraft Systems: Federal Actions Needed to Ensure Safety and Expand Their Potential Uses” (GAO-08-511). In the report, GAO recommended that to ensure that appropriate Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) security controls are in place regarding routine access to the national airspace system, the Secretary of Homeland Security should direct the Transportation Security Administration Administrator to examine the security implications of future, non-military UAS operations in the national airspace system and take any actions deemed appropriate. At the time, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) acknowledged that security of UAS was important but expressed satisfaction that no further action was necessary, as its existing procedures were sufficient. DHS has never conducted a comprehensive security assessment of the threat posed by small and medium size commercially available UAS and no entity has been tasked with leading the Federal effort in this area.

On Wednesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, the Subcommittee on Oversight and Management Efficiency of the Committee on Homeland Security held a hearing entitled “Unmanned Aerial System Threats: Exploring Security Implications and Mitigation Technologies.” At the hearing, experts provided testimony regarding the potential threats posed by small and medium size commercially available drones, the need for the DHS to act as the Federal lead in researching the matter and developing security policies should such be appropriate, and the need for DHS to disseminate information to State, local, and tribal law enforcement officials regarding how to bolster preparedness for and responses to attacks perpetrated by commercially available small and medium sized UAS.

The *Homeland Security Drone Assessment and Analysis Act* addresses the aforementioned issues by:

- Requiring DHS to research how commercially available small and medium sized UAS could be used to perpetrate an attack;
- Establishing DHS as the lead Federal department responsible for developing policies, guidance, and protocols to prevent an attack perpetrated with a small or medium sized UAS or mitigate the effects of such an attack in consultation with the Departments of Defense, Transportation, and Energy;
- Requiring DHS to disseminate information to State, local and tribal law enforcement officials regarding how to respond to potential threats posed by small and medium sized UAS; and
- Require DHS to conduct an assessment of the security threat associated with the commercial availability of small and medium sized UAS in coordination with DHS Centers of Excellence and other academic institutions.