HARPA: Social Credit (Mental) Scoring For Gun Control?

The Trump Administration has broken the ice on using Social Credit Scoring technology to decide who is mentally stable enough to purchase a weapon. Like a 'No-Fly' list, a 'No-Buy' list would be based on AI analysis of social media posts. ⎯ TN Editor

The Trump administration is considering a proposal that would use Google, Amazon and Apple to collect data on users who exhibit characteristics of mental illness that could lead to violent behavior, The Washington Post reported Thursday.

The proposal is part of an initiative to create a Health Advanced Research Projects Agency (HARPA), which would be located inside the Health and Human Services Department, [the report notes](), citing sources inside the administration. The new agency would have a separate budget and the president would be responsible for appointing its director.

HARPA would take after Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or

DARPA, which serves as the research arm for the Pentagon. The idea was first crafted in 2017 but has since gotten a renewed push after mass shootings [killed 31 people](#) in El Paso, Texas, and [Dayton, Ohio](#), in August.

The Suzanne Wright Foundation approached the president recently and proposed the agency include a project called Stopping Aberrant Fatal Events by Helping Overcome Mental Extremes, or Safe Home, the report notes, citing two people familiar with the matter.

President Donald Trump has a close relationship with Bob Wright, who founded the foundation after his wife died of cancer. Wright was a former chair of NBC and occupied that position while the president hosted "The Apprentice."

HARPA would develop "breakthrough technologies with high specificity and sensitivity for early diagnosis of neuropsychiatric violence," according to a copy of the proposal. "A multi-modality solution, along with real-time data analytics, is needed to achieve such an accurate diagnosis."

The document lists several technologies that could be employed to help collect information, including Apple Watches, Amazon Echo and Google Home. Geoffrey Ling, the lead scientific adviser on HARPA, told reporters Thursday the plan would require enormous amounts of data and "scientific rigor."

He added: "Everybody would be a volunteer. We're not inventing new science here. We're analyzing it so we can develop new approaches." The White House declined to provide the Daily Caller News Foundation with a statement but sources told WaPo that Trump has reacted "very positively" to the proposal — it is unclear if he has seen the Safe Home idea.

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