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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, investigation, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mr. HARPER (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and [see ATTACHED LIST of cosponsors]) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, investigation, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT; TABLE OF**  
2 **CONTENTS.**

3 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
4 “Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act”.

5 (b) **REFERENCES IN ACT.**—Except as otherwise ex-  
6 pressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment is  
7 expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a sec-  
8 tion or other provision, the reference shall be considered  
9 to be made to that section or other provision of the Con-  
10 gressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et  
11 seq.).

12 (c) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents of  
13 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references in Act; table of contents.

**TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES**

**Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation, Investigation, and Resolution  
of Claims**

Sec. 101. Description of procedures available for consideration of alleged viola-  
tions.

Sec. 102. Reform of process for initiation of procedures.

Sec. 103. Investigation of claims by General Counsel.

Sec. 104. Availability of mediation during investigations.

**Subtitle B—Other Reforms**

Sec. 111. Requiring Members of Congress to reimburse Treasury for amounts  
paid as settlements and awards in cases of acts committed per-  
sonally by Members.

Sec. 112. Automatic referral to congressional ethics committees of disposition  
of certain claims alleging violations of Congressional Account-  
ability Act of 1995 involving Members of Congress.

Sec. 113. Availability of remote work assignment or paid leave of absence dur-  
ing pendency of procedures.

Sec. 114. Modification of rules on confidentiality of proceedings.

Sec. 115. Reimbursement by other employing offices of legislative branch of  
payments of certain awards and settlements.

**TITLE II—IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE**

- Sec. 201. Semiannual reports on claims, awards, and settlements.
- Sec. 202. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.
- Sec. 203. Record retention.
- Sec. 204. GAO study of management practices.
- Sec. 205. GAO audit of cybersecurity.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS REFORMS

- Sec. 301. Extension to unpaid staff of rights and protections against employment discrimination.
- Sec. 302. Coverage of employees of Library of Congress.
- Sec. 303. Clarification of coverage of employees of Helsinki and China Commissions.
- Sec. 304. Training and education programs of other employing offices.
- Sec. 305. Renaming Office of Compliance as Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE IV—HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES REFORMS

- Sec. 401. Mandatory anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policies for House offices.
- Sec. 402. Office of Employee Advocacy.
- Sec. 403. Functions of Office of House Employment Counsel.
- Sec. 404. Requiring inclusion of certifications on payroll authorization forms of House of Representatives of no connection between payroll actions and claims relating to Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.
- Sec. 405. Sexual harassment as violation of House Code of Official Conduct.
- Sec. 406. Sexual relationships between House Members and employees and unwelcome sexual advances as violation of House Code of Official Conduct.
- Sec. 407. Effect of filing of claim under Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 on authority of Office of Congressional Ethics to consider claims.
- Sec. 409. Exercise of rulemaking authority.

TITLE V—EFFECTIVE DATE

- Sec. 501. Effective date.

1     **TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE**  
2     **RESOLUTION PROCEDURES**  
3     **Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures**  
4     **for Initiation, Investigation, and**  
5     **Resolution of Claims**

6     **SEC. 101. DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES AVAILABLE FOR**  
7             **CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.**

8             (a) PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.—Section 401 (2  
9     U.S.C. 1401) is amended to read as follows:

10    **“SEC. 401. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED**  
11             **VIOLATIONS.**

12             “(a) FILING AND INVESTIGATION OF CLAIMS.—Ex-  
13     cept as otherwise provided, the procedure for consideration  
14     of an alleged violation of part A of title II consists of—

15             “(1) the filing of a claim by the covered em-  
16     ployee alleging the violation, as provided in section  
17     402;

18             “(2) an investigation of the claim, to be con-  
19     ducted by the General Counsel as provided in section  
20     403; and

21             “(3) a formal hearing as provided in section  
22     405, subject to Board review as provided in section  
23     406, and judicial review in the United States Court  
24     of Appeals for the Federal Circuit as provided in  
25     section 407, but only if, pursuant to an investigation

1 conducted by the General Counsel as provided in  
2 section 403, the General Counsel finds either—

3 “(A) that there is reasonable cause to be-  
4 lieve that the employing office involved com-  
5 mitted a violation of part A of title II as alleged  
6 in the covered employee’s claim; or

7 “(B) that the General Counsel cannot de-  
8 termine whether or not there is reasonable  
9 cause to believe that the employing office com-  
10 mitted a violation of part A of title II as alleged  
11 in the covered employee’s claim.

12 “(b) RIGHT OF EMPLOYEE TO FILE CIVIL ACTION.—

13 “(1) CIVIL ACTION.—A covered employee who  
14 files a claim as provided in section 402 may, during  
15 the period described in paragraph (3), file a civil ac-  
16 tion in a District Court of the United States with  
17 respect to the alleged violation involved, as provided  
18 in section 408.

19 “(2) EFFECT OF FILING CIVIL ACTION.—Not-  
20 withstanding paragraph (2) or paragraph (3) of sub-  
21 section (a), if the covered employee files such a civil  
22 action—

23 “(A) the investigation of the claim by the  
24 General Counsel as provided in section 403, or  
25 any subsequent formal hearing as provided in

1 section 405, shall terminate upon the filing of  
2 the action by the covered employee; and

3 “(B) the procedure for consideration of the  
4 alleged violation shall not include any further  
5 investigation of the claim by the General Coun-  
6 sel as provided in section 403 or any subse-  
7 quent formal hearing as provided in section  
8 405.

9 “(3) PERIOD FOR FILING CIVIL ACTION.—The  
10 period described in this paragraph with respect to a  
11 claim is the 30-day period which begins on the date  
12 the covered employee files the claim under section  
13 402.

14 “(4) SPECIAL RULE FOR EMPLOYEES RECEIV-  
15 ING FINDING OF NO REASONABLE CAUSE UNDER IN-  
16 VESTIGATION BY GENERAL COUNSEL.—Notwith-  
17 standing paragraph (3), if a covered employee re-  
18 ceives a written notice from the General Counsel  
19 under section 403(c)(3) that the employee has the  
20 right to file a civil action with respect to the claim  
21 in accordance with section 408, the covered employee  
22 may file the civil action not later than 90 days after  
23 receiving such written notice.

24 “(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR ARCHITECT OF THE CAP-  
25 ITOL AND CAPITOL POLICE.—In the case of an employee

1 of the Office of the Architect of the Capitol or of the Cap-  
2 itol Police, the Office, after receiving a claim filed under  
3 section 402, may recommend that the employee use the  
4 grievance procedures of the Architect of the Capitol or the  
5 Capitol Police for resolution of the employee's grievance  
6 for a specific period of time.

7       “(d) RIGHTS OF PARTIES TO RETAIN PRIVATE  
8 COUNSEL.—Nothing in this title may be construed to limit  
9 the authority of any individual, including a covered em-  
10 ployee, the head of an employing office, or an individual  
11 who is alleged to have personally committed an act which  
12 consists of a violation of part A of title II to retain counsel  
13 to protect the interests of the individual at any point dur-  
14 ing any of the procedures provided under this title for the  
15 consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II,  
16 including as provided under section 415(d)(7) with respect  
17 to Members of the House of Representatives and Senators.

18       “(e) STANDARDS FOR COUNSEL PROVIDING REP-  
19 RESENTATION.—Any counsel who represents a party in  
20 any of the procedures provided under this title shall have  
21 an obligation to ensure that, to the best of the counsel's  
22 knowledge, information, and belief, as formed after an in-  
23 quiry which is reasonable under the circumstances, each  
24 of the following is correct:

1           “(1) No pleading, written motion, or other  
2 paper is presented for any improper purpose, such  
3 as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly  
4 increase the cost of resolution of the matter.

5           “(2) The claims, defenses, and other legal con-  
6 tentions the counsel advocates are warranted by ex-  
7 isting law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extend-  
8 ing, modifying, or reversing existing law or for es-  
9 tablishing new law.

10           “(3) The factual contentions have evidentiary  
11 support or, if specifically so identified, will likely  
12 have evidentiary support after a reasonable oppor-  
13 tunity for further investigation or discovery.

14           “(4) The denials of factual contentions are war-  
15 ranted on the evidence or, if specifically so identi-  
16 fied, are reasonably based on belief or a lack of in-  
17 formation.”.

18           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO CIVIL  
19 ACTION.—Section 408 (2 U.S.C. 1408) is amended—

20           (1) by striking “section 404” and inserting  
21 “section 401”;

22           (2) by striking “who has completed counseling  
23 under section 402 and mediation under section  
24 403”; and

25           (3) by striking the second sentence.



1 (c) OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Title IV is  
2 amended—

3 (1) by striking section 404 (2 U.S.C. 1404);

4 and

5 (2) by redesignating section 403 (2 U.S.C.  
6 1403) as section 404.

7 (d) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents  
8 is amended—

9 (1) by striking the item relating to section 404;

10 and

11 (2) by redesignating the item relating to section  
12 403 as relating to section 404.

13 **SEC. 102. REFORM OF PROCESS FOR INITIATION OF PROCE-**  
14 **DURES.**

15 (a) INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.—Section 402 (2  
16 U.S.C. 1402) is amended to read as follows:

17 **“SEC. 402. INITIATION OF PROCEDURES.**

18 “(a) INTAKE OF CLAIM BY OFFICE.—To commence  
19 a proceeding under this title, a covered employee alleging  
20 a violation of law made applicable under part A of title  
21 II shall file a claim with the Office. The claim shall be  
22 made in writing under oath or affirmation, and shall be  
23 in such form as the Office requires.

24 “(b) INITIAL PROCESSING OF CLAIM.—Upon the fil-  
25 ing of a claim by a covered employee under subsection (a),

1 the Office shall take such steps as may be necessary for  
2 the initial intake and recording of the claim, including pro-  
3 viding the employee with all relevant information with re-  
4 spect to the rights of the employee under this title, and  
5 shall notify the head of the employing office of the claim.

6 “(c) USE OF ELECTRONIC REPORTING AND TRACK-  
7 ING SYSTEM.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF SYS-  
9 TEM.—The Office shall establish and operate an  
10 electronic reporting system through which a covered  
11 employee may initiate a proceeding under this title,  
12 and which will keep an electronic record of the date  
13 and time at which the proceeding is initiated and  
14 will track all subsequent actions or proceedings oc-  
15 ccurring with respect to the proceeding under this  
16 title.

17 “(2) ACCESSIBILITY TO ALL PARTIES.—The  
18 system shall be accessible to all parties to such ac-  
19 tions or proceedings, but only until the completion of  
20 such actions or proceedings.

21 “(d) DEADLINE.—A covered employee may not file  
22 a claim under this section with respect to an allegation  
23 of a violation of law after the expiration of the 180-day  
24 period which begins on the date of the alleged violation.

1       “(e) NO EFFECT ON ABILITY OF COVERED EM-  
2 PLOYEE TO SEEK INFORMATION FROM OFFICE OR PUR-  
3 SUE RELIEF.—Nothing in this section may be construed  
4 to limit the ability of a covered employee—

5           “(1) to contact the Office or any other appro-  
6 priate office prior to filing a claim under this section  
7 to seek information regarding the employee’s rights  
8 under this Act and the procedures available under  
9 this title;

10          “(2) in the case of a covered employee of an  
11 employing office of the House of Representatives or  
12 Senate, to refer information regarding an alleged  
13 violation of part A of title II to the Committee on  
14 Ethics of the House of Representatives or the Select  
15 Committee on Ethics of the Senate (as the case may  
16 be); or

17          “(3) to file a civil action in accordance with sec-  
18 tion 401(b).”.

19       (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
20 is amended by amending the item relating to section 402  
21 to read as follows:

“Sec. 402. Initiation of procedures.”.

22 **SEC. 103. INVESTIGATION OF CLAIMS BY GENERAL COUN-**  
23 **SEL.**

24       (a) INVESTIGATIONS DESCRIBED.—Title IV (2  
25 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.), as amended by section 101(b), is

1 further amended by inserting after section 402 the fol-  
2 lowing new section:

3 **“SEC. 403. INVESTIGATION OF CLAIMS.**

4       “(a) INVESTIGATION.—Upon the completion of the  
5 initial processing of a claim under section 402(b), the Gen-  
6 eral Counsel shall conduct an investigation of the claim  
7 involved.

8       “(b) SUBPOENAS.—To carry out an investigation  
9 under this section, the General Counsel may issue sub-  
10 poenas in the same manner, and subject to the same terms  
11 and conditions, as a hearing officer may issue subpoenas  
12 to carry out discovery with respect to a hearing under sec-  
13 tion 405, except that the General Counsel may issue such  
14 a subpoena on the General Counsel’s own initiative, with-  
15 out regard to whether or not a party requests that the  
16 General Counsel issue the subpoena. It is the sense of  
17 Congress that the General Counsel should issue subpoenas  
18 under this subsection only to the extent that other meth-  
19 ods of obtaining information with respect to an investiga-  
20 tion are insufficient to enable the General Counsel to con-  
21 clude the investigation within the deadline described in  
22 subsection (e).

23       “(c) REPORT; FINDINGS.—

24               “(1) REPORT.—Upon concluding an investiga-  
25 tion of a claim under this section, the General Coun-

1       sel shall transmit a written report on the results of  
2       the investigation to the covered employee and the  
3       employing office involved.

4           “(2) INCLUSION OF FINDINGS.—The General  
5       Counsel shall include in the report transmitted  
6       under paragraph (1) one of the following findings:

7           “(A) A finding that there is reasonable  
8       cause to believe that the employing office com-  
9       mitted a violation of part A of title II, as al-  
10      leged in the covered employee’s claim.

11          “(B) A finding that there is no reasonable  
12      cause to believe that the employing office com-  
13      mitted a violation of part A of title II, as al-  
14      leged in the covered employee’s claim.

15          “(C) A finding that the General Counsel  
16      cannot determine whether or not there is rea-  
17      sonable cause to believe that the employing of-  
18      fice committed a violation of part A of title II,  
19      as alleged in the covered employee’s claim.

20          “(3) NOTICE OF RIGHT TO FILE CIVIL AC-  
21      TION.—If the General Counsel transmits a finding  
22      under subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2), the Gen-  
23      eral Counsel shall also transmit to the covered em-  
24      ployee a written notice that the employee has the

1 right to file a civil action with respect to the claim  
2 under section 408.

3 “(4) TRANSMISSION TO EXECUTIVE DIREC-  
4 TOR.—If the General Counsel transmits a finding  
5 under subparagraph (A) or subparagraph (C) of  
6 paragraph (2), the General Counsel shall also trans-  
7 mit the report to the Executive Director.

8 “(5) TRANSMISSION OF REPORT ON INVESTIGA-  
9 TION OF CERTAIN CLAIMS TO CONGRESSIONAL ETH-  
10 ICS COMMITTEES.—In the case of a report furnished  
11 under paragraph (1) on the results of an investiga-  
12 tion of a claim alleging a violation of section 201(a)  
13 which consists of an act committed personally by a  
14 Member of the House of Representatives (including  
15 a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Con-  
16 gress) or a Senator, the General Counsel shall trans-  
17 mit the report to—

18 “(A) the Committee on Ethics of the  
19 House of Representatives, in the case of a  
20 Member of the House (including a Delegate or  
21 Resident Commissioner to the Congress); or

22 “(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of  
23 the Senate, in the case of a Senator.

24 “(d) RECOMMENDATION OF MEDIATION.—At any  
25 time during the investigation of a claim under this section,

1 the General Counsel may make a recommendation that the  
2 covered employee and the employing office pursue medi-  
3 ation under section 404 with respect to the claim.

4 “(e) DEADLINE FOR CONCLUDING INVESTIGATION.—  
5 The General Counsel shall conclude the investigation of  
6 a claim under this subsection, and transmit the report on  
7 the results of the investigation, not later than 90 days  
8 after the claim is filed under section 402, except that the  
9 General Counsel may (upon notice to the parties to the  
10 investigation) use an additional period of not to exceed  
11 30 days to conclude the investigation.”.

12 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS RELATING TO  
13 HEARINGS CONDUCTED BY OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE.—  
14 Section 405 (2 U.S.C. 1405) is amended as follows:

15 (1) In the heading, by striking “**COMPLAINT**  
16 **AND**”.

17 (2) By amending subsection (a) to read as fol-  
18 lows:

19 “(a) REQUIREMENT FOR OFFICE TO CONDUCT  
20 HEARINGS.—

21 “(1) HEARING REQUIRED UPON CERTAIN FIND-  
22 INGS BY GENERAL COUNSEL.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the General Coun-  
24 sel transmits to the Executive Director a report  
25 on the investigation of a claim under section

1           403 which includes a finding described in sub-  
2           paragraph (B), the Office shall conduct a hear-  
3           ing to consider the claim and render a decision.

4           “(B) FINDINGS DESCRIBED.—A finding  
5           described in this subparagraph is—

6                   “(i) a finding under section  
7                   403(c)(2)(A) that there is reasonable cause  
8                   to believe that an employing office com-  
9                   mitted a violation of part A of title II, as  
10                  alleged in a claim filed by a covered em-  
11                  ployee; or

12                   “(ii) a finding under section  
13                   403(c)(2)(C) that the General Counsel  
14                   cannot determine whether or not there is  
15                   reasonable cause to believe that the em-  
16                   ploying office committed a violation of part  
17                   A of title II, as alleged in the covered em-  
18                   ployee’s claim.”.

19           (3) In subsection (c)(1), by striking “com-  
20           plaint” and inserting “claim”.

21           (4) In subsection (d) in the matter preceding  
22           paragraph (1), by striking “complaint” and inserting  
23           “claim”.

24           (5) In subsection (d)(2), by striking “no later  
25           than 60 days after filing of the complaint” and in-



1           serting “no later than 60 days after the Executive  
2           Director receives the General Counsel’s report on the  
3           investigation of the claim”.

4           (6) In subsection (g), by striking “complaint”  
5           and inserting “claim”.

6           (c) **OTHER CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—The head-  
7           ing of section 414 (2 U.S.C. 1414) is amended by striking  
8           “**OF COMPLAINTS**”.

9           (d) **CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.**—The table of contents,  
10          as amended by section 101(c), is further amended as fol-  
11          lows:

12           (1) By inserting after the item relating to sec-  
13           tion 402 the following new item:

“Sec. 403. Investigation of claims.”.

14           (2) By amending the item relating to section  
15           405 to read as follows:

“Sec. 405. Hearing.”.

16           (3) By amending the item relating to section  
17           414 to read as follows:

“Sec. 414. Settlement.”.

18           **SEC. 104. AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION DURING INVES-**  
19           **TIGATIONS.**

20           (a) **OPTION TO REQUEST MEDIATION.**—Section  
21           404(a) (2 U.S.C. 1404(a)), as redesignated by section  
22           101(c), is amended to read as follows:

1           “(a) AVAILABILITY OF MEDIATION DURING INVES-  
2 TIGATION.—At any time during the investigation of a cov-  
3 ered employee’s claim under section 403, the covered em-  
4 ployee and the employing office may jointly file a request  
5 for mediation with the Office.”.

6           (b) PERIOD OF MEDIATION.—The second sentence of  
7 section 404(c) (2 U.S.C. 1404(c)), as redesignated by sec-  
8 tion 101(c), is amended to read as follows: “The mediation  
9 period may be extended for one additional period of 30  
10 days at the joint request of the covered employee and em-  
11 ploying office.”.

12           (c) REQUIRING PARTIES TO BE SEPARATED DURING  
13 MEDIATION AT REQUEST OF EMPLOYEE.—Section  
14 404(b)(2) (2 U.S.C. 1404(b)(2)), as redesignated by sec-  
15 tion 101(c), is amended by striking “meetings with the  
16 parties separately or jointly” and inserting “meetings with  
17 the parties during which, at the request of the covered  
18 employee, the parties shall be separated,”.

1           **Subtitle B—Other Reforms**

2   **SEC. 111. REQUIRING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO REIM-**  
3           **BURSE TREASURY FOR AMOUNTS PAID AS**  
4           **SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS IN CASES OF**  
5           **ACTS COMMITTED PERSONALLY BY MEM-**  
6           **BERS.**

7           (a) MANDATING REIMBURSEMENT OF AMOUNTS  
8 PAID.—Section 415 (2 U.S.C. 1415) is amended by add-  
9 ing at the end the following new subsection:

10           “(d) REIMBURSEMENT BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS  
11 OF AMOUNTS PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS.—

12                   “(1) REIMBURSEMENT REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN  
13 VIOLATIONS.—

14                           “(A) IN GENERAL.—If a payment is made  
15 from the account described in subsection (a) for  
16 an award or settlement in connection with a  
17 claim alleging a violation described in subpara-  
18 graph (B) which consists of an act committed  
19 personally by an individual who, at the time of  
20 committing the act, was a Member of the  
21 House of Representatives (including a Delegate  
22 or Resident Commissioner to the Congress) or  
23 a Senator, the individual shall reimburse the ac-  
24 count for the amount of the award or settle-  
25 ment.

1           “(B) VIOLATIONS DESCRIBED.—A viola-  
2           tion described in this subparagraph is—

3                   “(i) a violation of section 201(a); or

4                   “(ii) a violation of section 207 which  
5           consists of intimidating, taking reprisal  
6           against, or otherwise discriminating  
7           against any covered employee because the  
8           covered employee has opposed any practice  
9           made unlawful by section 201(a).

10          “(2) WITHHOLDING AMOUNTS FROM SALARY.—

11               “(A) ESTABLISHMENT OF TIMETABLE AND  
12           PROCEDURES BY COMMITTEES.—For purposes  
13           of carrying out subparagraph (B), the applica-  
14           ble Committee shall establish a timetable and  
15           procedures for the withholding of amounts from  
16           the compensation of an individual who is a  
17           Member of the House of Representatives or a  
18           Senator.

19               “(B) DEADLINE.—The payroll adminis-  
20           trator shall withhold from an individual’s com-  
21           pensation and transfer to the account described  
22           in subsection (a) (after transferring any  
23           amounts to the account of the individual in the  
24           Thrift Savings Fund) such amounts as may be  
25           necessary to reimburse the account for the pay-

1           ment of an award or settlement described in  
2           paragraph (1) if the individual has not reim-  
3           bursed the account as required under para-  
4           graph (1) prior to the expiration of the 90-day  
5           period which begins on the date a payment is  
6           made from the account for such an award or  
7           settlement.

8           “(C) APPLICABLE COMMITTEE DEFINED.—  
9           In this paragraph, the ‘applicable Committee’  
10          means—

11           “(i) the Committee on House Admin-  
12           istration of the House of Representatives,  
13           in the case of an individual who, at the  
14           time of the withholding, is a Member of  
15           the House; or

16           “(ii) the Committee on Rules and Ad-  
17           ministration of the Senate, in the case of  
18           an individual who, at the time of the with-  
19           holding, is a Senator.

20          “(3) USE OF AMOUNTS IN THRIFT SAVINGS  
21          FUND AS SOURCE OF REIMBURSEMENT.—

22           “(A) IN GENERAL.—If, by the expiration  
23           of the 180-day period which begins on the date  
24           a payment is made from the account described  
25           in subsection (a) for an award or settlement de-

1           scribed in paragraph (1), an individual who is  
2           a Member of the House of Representatives or a  
3           Senator has not reimbursed the account as re-  
4           quired under paragraph (1), the Executive Di-  
5           rector of the Federal Retirement Thrift Invest-  
6           ment Board shall make a transfer, from the ac-  
7           count of the individual in the Thrift Savings  
8           Fund to the account described in subsection  
9           (a), of an amount equal to the award or settle-  
10          ment (reduced by any amount the individual  
11          has reimbursed, taking into account any  
12          amounts withheld under paragraph (2)).

13                 “(B) INITIATION OF TRANSFER.—A trans-  
14          fer under subparagraph (A) shall be initiated by  
15          a written request to the Executive Director  
16          from the Secretary of the Treasury in the form  
17          and manner required by the Executive Director.

18                 “(4) NOTIFICATION TO OFFICE OF PERSONNEL  
19          MANAGEMENT AND SECRETARY OF THE TREAS-  
20          URY.—If, at the time an individual is first no longer  
21          receiving compensation as a Member or a Senator,  
22          the amounts withheld under this subsection have not  
23          been sufficient to reimburse the account described in  
24          subsection (a) for an award or settlement described  
25          in paragraph (1), the payroll administrator—

1           “(A) shall notify the Director of the Office  
2 of Personnel Management, who shall take such  
3 actions as the Director considers appropriate to  
4 withhold from any annuity payable to the indi-  
5 vidual under chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title  
6 5, United States Code, and transfer to the ac-  
7 count described in subsection (a), such amounts  
8 as may be necessary to reimburse the account  
9 for the payment; and

10           “(B) shall notify the Secretary of the  
11 Treasury, who (if necessary), notwithstanding  
12 section 207 of the Social Security Act (42  
13 U.S.C. 407), shall take such actions as the Sec-  
14 retary of the Treasury considers appropriate to  
15 withhold from any payment to the individual  
16 under title II of the Social Security Act and  
17 transfer to the account described in subsection  
18 (a), such amounts as may be necessary to reim-  
19 burse the account for the payment.

20           “(5) COORDINATION BETWEEN OPM AND  
21 TREASURY.—The Director of the Office of Personnel  
22 Management and the Secretary of the Treasury shall  
23 carry out paragraph (4) in a manner that ensures  
24 the coordination of the withholding and transferring  
25 of amounts under such paragraph, in accordance

1 with regulations promulgated by the Director and  
2 the Secretary.

3 “(6) PAYROLL ADMINISTRATOR DEFINED.—In  
4 this section, the term ‘payroll administrator’  
5 means—

6 “(A) in the case of an individual who is a  
7 Member of the House of Representatives, the  
8 Chief Administrative Officer of the House of  
9 Representatives, or an employee of the Office of  
10 the Chief Administrative Officer who is des-  
11 ignated by the Chief Administrative Officer to  
12 carry out this subsection; or

13 “(B) in the case of an individual who is a  
14 Senator, the Secretary of the Senate, or an em-  
15 ployee of the Office of the Secretary of the Sen-  
16 ate who is designated by the Secretary to carry  
17 out this subsection.

18 “(7) RIGHT TO INTERVENE.—An individual  
19 who is subject to the reimbursement requirement of  
20 this subsection shall have the right to intervene in  
21 any mediation, hearing, or civil action under this  
22 title to the extent necessary to protect the interests  
23 of the individual in the determination of whether an  
24 award or settlement described in paragraph (1)  
25 should be made, and the amount of any such award



1 or settlement, except that nothing in this paragraph  
2 may be construed to require the covered employee  
3 who filed the claim to be deposed by counsel for the  
4 individual in a deposition which is separate from any  
5 other deposition taken from the employee in connec-  
6 tion with the hearing or civil action.”.

7 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO  
8 THRIFT SAVINGS FUND.—Section 8437(e) of title 5,  
9 United States Code, is amended by striking “or an obliga-  
10 tion” and inserting the following: “an obligation of the Ex-  
11 ecutive Director to make a transfer under section  
12 415(d)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act of  
13 1995, or an obligation”.

14 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
15 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to payments made  
16 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 112. AUTOMATIC REFERRAL TO CONGRESSIONAL ETH-**  
18 **ICS COMMITTEES OF DISPOSITION OF CER-**  
19 **TAIN CLAIMS ALLEGING VIOLATIONS OF**  
20 **CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF**  
21 **1995 INVOLVING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.**

22 Section 416(e) (2 U.S.C. 1416(d)) is amended to  
23 read as follows:

1       “(e) AUTOMATIC REFERRALS TO CONGRESSIONAL  
2 ETHICS COMMITTEES OF DISPOSITIONS OF CLAIMS IN-  
3 VOLVING MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—

4           “(1) REFERRAL.—Upon the final disposition  
5 under this title of a claim alleging a violation de-  
6 scribed in section 415(d)(1)(B) which consists of an  
7 act committed personally by a Member of the House  
8 of Representatives (including a Delegate or Resident  
9 Commissioner to the Congress) or a Senator, the  
10 Executive Director shall refer the claim to—

11           “(A) the Committee on Ethics of the  
12 House of Representatives, in the case of a  
13 Member of the House (including a Delegate or  
14 Resident Commissioner to the Congress); or

15           “(B) the Select Committee on Ethics of  
16 the Senate, in the case of a Senator.

17           “(2) ACCESS TO RECORDS AND INFORMA-  
18 TION.—If the Executive Director refers a claim to a  
19 Committee under paragraph (1), the Executive Di-  
20 rector shall provide the Committee with access to the  
21 records of any investigations, hearings, or decisions  
22 of the hearing officers and the Board under this  
23 title, and any information relating to an award or  
24 settlement paid, in response to such claim.

1           “(3) PROTECTION OF PERSONALLY IDENTIFI-  
2           ABLE INFORMATION.—If a Committee to which a  
3           claim is referred under paragraph (1) issues a report  
4           with respect to the claim, the Committee shall en-  
5           sure that the report does not directly disclose the  
6           identity or position of the individual who filed the  
7           claim.

8           “(4) FINAL DISPOSITION DESCRIBED.—In this  
9           subsection, the ‘final disposition’ of a claim means  
10          any of the following:

11                  “(A) An order or agreement to pay an  
12                  award or settlement.

13                  “(B) A final decision of a hearing officer  
14                  under section 405(g).

15                  “(C) A final decision of the Board under  
16                  section 406(e).

17                  “(D) A final decision in a civil action  
18                  under section 408.”.

19   **SEC. 113. AVAILABILITY OF REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT**  
20                           **OR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING PEND-**  
21                           **ENCY OF PROCEDURES.**

22           (a) IN GENERAL.—Title IV (2 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.)  
23   is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 417. AVAILABILITY OF REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT**  
2 **OR PAID LEAVE OF ABSENCE DURING PEND-**  
3 **ENCY OF PROCEDURES.**

4 “(a) OPTIONS FOR EMPLOYEES.—

5 “(1) REMOTE WORK ASSIGNMENT.—At the re-  
6 quest of a covered employee who files a claim alleg-  
7 ing a violation of part A of title II by the covered  
8 employee’s employing office, during the pendency of  
9 any of the procedures available under this title for  
10 consideration of the claim, the employing office may  
11 permit the covered employee to carry out the em-  
12 ployee’s responsibilities from a remote location in-  
13 stead of from the location of the employing office.

14 “(2) EXCEPTION FOR WORK ASSIGNMENTS RE-  
15 QUIRED TO BE CARRIED OUT ONSITE.—If, in the de-  
16 termination of the covered employee’s employing of-  
17 fice, a covered employee who makes a request under  
18 this subsection cannot carry out the employee’s re-  
19 sponsibilities from a remote location, the employing  
20 office may grant paid leave of absence to a covered  
21 employee during the pendency of the procedures  
22 available under this title for the covered employee.

23 “(3) ENSURING NO RETALIATION.—An employ-  
24 ing office may not grant a covered employee’s re-  
25 quest under this subsection in a manner which

1 would constitute reprisal or retaliation under section  
2 207.

3 “(b) EXCEPTION FOR ARRANGEMENTS SUBJECT TO  
4 COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Subsection (a)  
5 does not apply to the extent that it is inconsistent with  
6 the terms and conditions of any collective bargaining  
7 agreement which is in effect with respect to an employing  
8 office.”.

9 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
10 is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to  
11 tile IV the following new item:

“Sec. 417. Availability of remote work assignment or paid leave of absence dur-  
ing pendency of procedures.”.

12 **SEC. 114. MODIFICATION OF RULES ON CONFIDENTIALITY**  
13 **OF PROCEEDINGS.**

14 (a) CLAIMS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—Section 416(a)  
15 (2 U.S.C. 1416(a)) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(a) CLAIMS AND INVESTIGATIONS.—The filing of a  
17 claim under section 402 and any investigation of a claim  
18 under section 403 shall be confidential. Nothing in this  
19 subsection may be construed to prohibit a covered em-  
20 ployee or an employing office from disclosing any informa-  
21 tion related to the claim (including information related to  
22 the defense of the claim) in the course of any proceeding  
23 under this title.”.

1 (b) MEDIATION.—Section 416(b) (2 U.S.C. 1416(b))  
2 is amended by striking “All mediation” and inserting “All  
3 information discussed or disclosed in the course of any me-  
4 diation”.

5 **SEC. 115. REIMBURSEMENT BY OTHER EMPLOYING OF-**  
6 **FICES OF LEGISLATIVE BRANCH OF PAY-**  
7 **MENTS OF CERTAIN AWARDS AND SETTLE-**  
8 **MENTS.**

9 (a) REQUIRING REIMBURSEMENT.—Section 415 (2  
10 U.S.C. 1415), as amended by section 111, is further  
11 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
12 section:

13 “(e) REIMBURSEMENT BY EMPLOYING OFFICES.—  
14 “(1) NOTIFICATION OF PAYMENTS MADE FROM  
15 ACCOUNT.—As soon as practicable after the Execu-  
16 tive Director is made aware that a payment of an  
17 award or settlement under this chapter has been  
18 made from the account described in subsection (a)  
19 in connection with a claim alleging a violation of sec-  
20 tion 201(a) by an employing office (other than an  
21 employing office of the House of Representatives or  
22 an employing office of the Senate), the Executive  
23 Director shall notify the head of the employing office  
24 that the payment has been made, and shall include

1 in the notification a statement of the amount of the  
2 payment.

3 “(2) REIMBURSEMENT BY OFFICE.—Not later  
4 than 180 days after receiving a notification from the  
5 Executive Director under paragraph (1), the head of  
6 the employing office involved shall transfer to the ac-  
7 count described in subsection (a), out of any funds  
8 available for operating expenses of the office, a pay-  
9 ment equal to the amount specified in the notifica-  
10 tion.

11 “(3) TIMETABLE AND PROCEDURES FOR REIM-  
12 BURSEMENT.—The head of an employing office shall  
13 transfer a payment under paragraph (2) in accord-  
14 ance with such timetable and procedures as may be  
15 established under regulations promulgated by the  
16 Office.”.

17 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
18 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to payments made  
19 under section 415 of the Congressional Accountability Act  
20 of 1995 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

1 **TITLE II—IMPROVING OPER-**  
2 **ATIONS OF OFFICE OF COM-**  
3 **PLIANCE**

4 **SEC. 201. SEMIANNUAL REPORTS ON CLAIMS, AWARDS, AND**  
5 **SETTLEMENTS.**

6 (a) REQUIRING SUBMISSION AND PUBLICATION OF  
7 REPORTS.—Section 301(h) (2 U.S.C. 1381(h)) is amend-  
8 ed—

9 (1) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
10 (2);

11 (2) by striking the period at the end of para-  
12 graph (3) and inserting “; and”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following new  
14 paragraph:

15 “(4) in addition to compiling and publishing the  
16 statistics described in paragraph (3), not later than  
17 45 days after the first 6-month period of each cal-  
18 endar year, and not later than 45 days after the  
19 next 6- month period of each calendar year, submit  
20 to Congress and publish on the Office’s public  
21 website a report listing each award or settlement  
22 which was paid during the previous year from the  
23 account described in section 415(a) as the result of  
24 a claim alleging a violation of part A of title II, in-  
25 cluding the employing office involved, the amount of



1 the award or settlement, the provision of part A of  
2 title II which was the subject of the claim, and (in  
3 the case of an award or settlement resulting from a  
4 violation described in section 415(d)(1)(B) which  
5 was committed personally by a Member or former  
6 Member of Congress), whether the Member or  
7 former Member has met the requirement of section  
8 415(d) to reimburse the account for the amount of  
9 the award or settlement, except that such report  
10 may not disclose the identity or position of an indi-  
11 vidual who filed the claim.”.

12 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
13 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to 2018 and each  
14 succeeding year.

15 **SEC. 202. WORKPLACE CLIMATE SURVEYS OF EMPLOYING**  
16 **OFFICES.**

17 (a) REQUIRING SURVEYS.—Title III (2 U.S.C. 1381  
18 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following  
19 new section:

20 **“SEC. 307. WORKPLACE CLIMATE SURVEYS OF EMPLOYING**  
21 **OFFICES.**

22 “(a) REQUIREMENT TO CONDUCT SURVEYS.—Not  
23 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this  
24 section, and every 2 years thereafter, the Office shall con-

1 duct a survey of employing offices under this Act regard-  
2 ing the workplace environment of such offices.

3 “(b) SPECIAL INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON SEX-  
4 UAL HARASSMENT.—In each survey conducted under this  
5 section, the Office shall survey respondents on attitudes  
6 regarding sexual harassment.

7 “(c) METHODOLOGY.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office shall conduct  
9 each survey under this section in accordance with  
10 methodologies established by the Office.

11 “(2) CONFIDENTIALITY.—Under the meth-  
12 odologies established under paragraph (1), all re-  
13 sponses to all portions of the survey shall be anony-  
14 mous and confidential, and each respondent shall be  
15 told throughout the survey that all responses shall  
16 be anonymous and confidential.

17 “(d) USE OF RESULTS OF SURVEYS.—The Office  
18 shall furnish the information obtained from the surveys  
19 conducted under this section to the Committee on House  
20 Administration of the House of Representatives and the  
21 Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Af-  
22 fairs of the Senate.

23 “(e) CONSULTATION WITH COMMITTEES.—The Of-  
24 fice shall carry out this section, including establishment  
25 of methodologies and procedures under subsection (c), in

1 consultation with the Committee on House Administration  
2 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on  
3 Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Sen-  
4 ate.

5 “(f) INCLUSION OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.—For  
6 purposes of this section, the Library of Congress shall be  
7 considered an employing office.”.

8 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
9 is amended by adding at the end of the items relating to  
10 title III the following new item:

“Sec. 307. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.”.

11 **SEC. 203. RECORD RETENTION.**

12 Section 301 (2 U.S.C. 1381) is amended by adding  
13 at the end the following new subsection:

14 “(l) RECORD RETENTION.—The Office shall establish  
15 and maintain a program for the permanent retention of  
16 its records, including the records of investigations, medi-  
17 ations, hearings, and other proceedings conducted under  
18 title IV.”.

19 **SEC. 204. GAO STUDY OF MANAGEMENT PRACTICES.**

20 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United  
21 States shall conduct a study of the management practices  
22 of the Office of Compliance.

23 (b) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 180 days  
24 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-  
25 troller General of the United States shall submit to Con-

1 gress a report on the study conducted under subsection  
2 (a), and shall include in the report such recommendations  
3 as the Comptroller General considers appropriate for im-  
4 provements to the management practices of the Office of  
5 Compliance.

6 **SEC. 205. GAO AUDIT OF CYBERSECURITY.**

7 (a) **AUDIT.**—The Comptroller General of the United  
8 States shall conduct an audit of the cybersecurity systems  
9 and practices of the Office of Compliance.

10 (b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 180 days  
11 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comp-  
12 troller General of the United States shall submit to Con-  
13 gress a report on the audit conducted under subsection  
14 (a), and shall include in the report such recommendations  
15 as the Comptroller General considers appropriate for im-  
16 provements to the cybersecurity systems and practices of  
17 the Office of Compliance.

18 **TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS**  
19 **REFORMS**

20 **SEC. 301. EXTENSION TO UNPAID STAFF OF RIGHTS AND**  
21 **PROTECTIONS AGAINST EMPLOYMENT DIS-**  
22 **CRIMINATION.**

23 (a) **EXTENSION.**—Section 201 (2 U.S.C. 1311) is  
24 amended—

1           (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
2           section (e); and

3           (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-  
4           lowing new subsection:

5           “(d) APPLICATION TO UNPAID STAFF.—

6           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a) and (b)  
7           shall apply with respect to any staff of an employing  
8           office who carry out official duties of the employing  
9           office but who are not paid by the employing office  
10          for carrying out such duties, including an intern (in-  
11          cluding an applicant for an internship and a former  
12          intern), an individual detailed to an employing office,  
13          and an individual participating in a fellowship pro-  
14          gram, in the same manner and to the same extent  
15          as such subsections apply with respect to an em-  
16          ployee.

17          “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in  
18          paragraph (1) may be construed to extend liability  
19          for a violation of subsection (a) to an employing of-  
20          fice on the basis of an action taken by any person  
21          who is not under the supervision or control of the  
22          employing office.

23          “(3) INTERN DEFINED.—The term ‘intern’  
24          means an individual who performs service for an em-  
25          ploying office which is uncompensated by the United

1 States to earn credit awarded by an educational in-  
2 stitution or to learn a trade or occupation, and in-  
3 cludes any individual participating in a page pro-  
4 gram operated by any House of Congress.”.

5 (b) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION RELATING TO OFFICE**  
6 **RESPONSIBLE FOR DISBURSEMENT OF PAY TO HOUSE**  
7 **EMPLOYEES.**—Section 101(7) (2 U.S.C. 1301(7)) is  
8 amended by striking “disbursed by the Clerk of the House  
9 of Representatives” and inserting “disbursed by the Chief  
10 Administrative Officer of the House of Representatives”.

11 **SEC. 302. COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES OF LIBRARY OF CON-**  
12 **GRESS.**

13 (a) **COVERAGE FOR PURPOSES OF PROTECTIONS**  
14 **AGAINST WORKPLACE DISCRIMINATION.**—Section 201 (2  
15 U.S.C. 1311), as amended by section 301(a), is further  
16 amended—

17 (1) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-  
18 section (f); and

19 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-  
20 lowing new subsection:

21 “(e) **COVERAGE OF LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.**—For  
22 purposes of this section—

23 “(1) the Library of Congress shall be consid-  
24 ered an employing office; and

1           “(2) the employees of the Library of Congress  
2 shall be considered covered employees.”.

3           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT RELATING TO SPE-  
4 CIAL RULE FOR AVAILABLE PROCEDURES.—Section  
5 401(c) (2 U.S.C. 1401(c)), as amended by section 101(a),  
6 is amended—

7           (1) in the heading, by striking “ARCHITECT OF  
8 THE CAPITOL AND CAPITOL POLICE” and inserting  
9 “ARCHITECT OF THE CAPITOL, CAPITOL POLICE,  
10 AND LIBRARY OF CONGRESS”; and

11           (2) by striking “the Office of the Architect of  
12 the Capitol or of the Capitol Police” and inserting  
13 “the Office of the Architect of the Capitol, the Cap-  
14 itol Police, or the Library of Congress”; and

15           (3) by striking “Architect of the Capitol or the  
16 Capitol Police” and inserting “Architect of the Cap-  
17 itol, the Capitol Police, or the Library of Congress  
18 (as the case may be)”.

19           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

20           (1) IN GENERAL.—The amendments made by  
21 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to claims al-  
22 leging violations of part A of title II of the Congres-  
23 sional Accountability Act of 1995 which are first  
24 made on or after the date of the enactment of this  
25 Act.

1           (2) TREATMENT OF PENDING CLAIMS UNDER  
2           EXISTING PROCEDURES.—If, as of the date of the  
3           enactment of this Act, an employee of the Library  
4           of Congress has or could have filed a charge or com-  
5           plaint pursuant to procedures of the Library of Con-  
6           gress which were available to the employee prior to  
7           such date for the resolution of a claim alleging a vio-  
8           lation of a provision of law made applicable to the  
9           Library under section 201(a) (including procedures  
10          applicable pursuant to a collective bargaining agree-  
11          ment), the employee may complete, or initiate and  
12          complete, all such procedures, and such procedures  
13          shall remain in effect with respect to, and provide  
14          the exclusive procedures for, that charge or com-  
15          plaint until the completion of all such procedures.

16 **SEC. 303. CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES**  
17                 **OF HELSINKI AND CHINA COMMISSIONS.**

18          (a) CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE.—Section 101 (2  
19 U.S.C. 1301) is amended—

20                 (1) by striking “Except as otherwise” and in-  
21                 serting “(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise”;  
22                 and

23                 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
24                 section:



1           “(b) CLARIFICATION OF COVERAGE OF EMPLOYEES  
2 OF CERTAIN COMMISSIONS.—

3           “(1) COVERAGE.—With respect to the China  
4 Review Commission, the Congressional-Executive  
5 China Commission, and the Helsinki Commission—

6           “(A) any individual who is an employee of  
7 such Commission shall be considered a covered  
8 employee for purposes of this Act; and

9           “(B) the Commission shall be considered  
10 an employing office for purposes of this Act.

11           “(2) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE LEGAL ASSIST-  
12 ANCE AND REPRESENTATION.—Subject to paragraph  
13 (3), legal assistance and representation under this  
14 Act, including assistance and representation with re-  
15 spect to the proposal or acceptance of the disposition  
16 of a claim under this Act, shall be provided to the  
17 China Review Commission, the Congressional-Execu-  
18 tive China Commission, and the Helsinki Commis-  
19 sion—

20           “(A) by the House Employment Counsel of  
21 the House of Representatives, in the case of as-  
22 sistance and representation in connection with a  
23 claim filed under title IV (including all subse-  
24 quent proceedings under such title in connec-  
25 tion with the claim) at a time when the chair

1 of the Commission is a Member of the House;  
2 or

3 “(B) by the Senate Chief Counsel for Em-  
4 ployment of the Senate, in the case of assist-  
5 ance and representation in connection with a  
6 claim filed under title IV (including all subse-  
7 quent proceedings under such title in connec-  
8 tion with the claim) at a time when the chair  
9 of the Commission is a Senator.

10 “(3) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

11 “(A) the term ‘China Review Commission’  
12 means the United States-China Economic and  
13 Security Review Commission established under  
14 section 1238 of the Floyd D. Spence National  
15 Defense Authorization Act of 2001 (Public Law  
16 106–398; 22 U.S.C. 7002);

17 “(B) the term ‘Congressional-Executive  
18 China Commission’ means the Congressional-  
19 Executive Commission on the People’s Republic  
20 of China established under title III of the U.S.–  
21 China Relations Act of 2000 (Public Law 106–  
22 286; 22 U.S.C. 6911 et seq.); and

23 “(C) the term ‘Helsinki Commission’  
24 means the Commission on Security and Co-  
25 operation in Europe established under the Act

1           entitled ‘An Act to establish a Commission on  
2           Security and Cooperation in Europe’ (Public  
3           Law 94–304; 22 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.).”.

4           (b) COVERAGE OF STENNIS CENTER.—

5           (1) TREATMENT OF EMPLOYEES AS COVERED  
6           EMPLOYEES.—Section 101(3) (2 U.S.C. 1301(3)) is  
7           amended—

8           (A) by striking “or” at the end of subpara-  
9           graph (H);

10           (B) by striking the period at the end of  
11           subparagraph (I) and inserting “; or”; and

12           (C) by adding at the end the following new  
13           subparagraph:

14           “(J) the John C. Stennis Center for Public  
15           Service Training and Development.”.

16           (2) TREATMENT OF CENTER AS EMPLOYING OF-  
17           FICE.—Section 101(9)(D) (2 U.S.C. 1301(9)(D)) is  
18           amended by striking “and the Office of Technology  
19           Assessment” and inserting the following: “the Office  
20           of Technology Assessment, and the John C. Stennis  
21           Center for Public Service Training and Develop-  
22           ment”.

23           (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
24           this section shall take effect as if included in the enact-  
25           ment of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995.)

1 **SEC. 304. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF**  
2 **OTHER EMPLOYING OFFICES.**

3 (a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLE-  
4 MENT PROGRAMS.—Title V (2 U.S.C. 1431 et seq.) is  
5 amended—

6 (1) by redesignating section 509 as section 510;

7 and

8 (2) by inserting after section 508 the following  
9 new section:

10 **“SEC. 509. TRAINING AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS OF EM-**  
11 **PLOYING OFFICES.**

12 “(a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO DEVELOP AND IMPLE-  
13 MENT PROGRAMS.—Each employing office shall develop  
14 and implement a program to train and educate covered  
15 employees of the office in the rights and protections pro-  
16 vided under this Act, including the procedures available  
17 under title IV to consider alleged violations of this Act.

18 “(b) REPORT TO COMMITTEES.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 45 days  
20 after the beginning of each Congress (beginning with  
21 the One Hundred Sixteenth Congress), each employ-  
22 ing office shall submit a report to the Committee on  
23 House Administration of the House of Representa-  
24 tives and the Committee on Rules and Administra-  
25 tion of the Senate on the implementation of the pro-  
26 gram required under subsection (a).

1           “(2) SPECIAL RULE FOR FIRST REPORT.—Not  
2 later than 180 days after the date of the enactment  
3 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Re-  
4 form Act, each employing office shall submit the re-  
5 port described in paragraph (1) to the Committees  
6 described in such paragraph.

7           “(c) EXCEPTION FOR OFFICES OF CONGRESS.—This  
8 section does not apply to an employing office of the House  
9 of Representatives or an employing office of the Senate.”.

10          (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents  
11 is amended—

12           (1) by redesignating the item relating to section  
13 509 as relating to section 510; and

14           (2) by inserting after the item relating to sec-  
15 tion 508 the following new item:

“Sec. 509. Training and education programs of employing offices.”.

16 **SEC. 305. RENAMING OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AS OFFICE**  
17 **OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS.**

18          (a) RENAMING.—Section 301 of the Congressional  
19 Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) is  
20 amended—

21           (1) in the heading, by striking “**OFFICE OF**  
22 **COMPLIANCE**” and inserting “**OFFICE OF CON-**  
23 **GRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS**”; and

1           (2) in subsection (a), by striking “Office of  
2           Compliance” and inserting “Office of Congressional  
3           Workplace Rights”.

4           (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO CONGRESSIONAL  
5           ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.—The Congressional Ac-  
6           countability Act of 1995 is amended as follows:

7           (1) In section 101(1) (2 U.S.C. 1301(1)), by  
8           striking “Office of Compliance” and inserting “Of-  
9           fice of Congressional Workplace Rights”.

10          (2) In section 101(2) (2 U.S.C. 1301(2)), by  
11          striking “Office of Compliance” and inserting “Of-  
12          fice of Congressional Workplace Rights”.

13          (3) In section 101(3)(H) (2 U.S.C.  
14          1301(3)(H)), by striking “Office of Compliance”  
15          and inserting “Office of Congressional Workplace  
16          Rights”.

17          (4) In section 101(9)(D) (2 U.S.C.  
18          1301(9)(D)), by striking “Office of Compliance” and  
19          inserting “Office of Congressional Workplace  
20          Rights”.

21          (5) In section 101(10) (2 U.S.C. 1301(10)), by  
22          striking “Office of Compliance” and inserting “Of-  
23          fice of Congressional Workplace Rights”.

1           (6) In section 101(11) (2 U.S.C. 1301(11)), by  
2 striking “Office of Compliance” and inserting “Of-  
3 fice of Congressional Workplace Rights”.

4           (7) In section 101(12) (2 U.S.C. 1301(12)), by  
5 striking “Office of Compliance” and inserting “Of-  
6 fice of Congressional Workplace Rights”.

7           (8) In section 210(a)(9) (2 U.S.C. 1331(a)(9)),  
8 by striking “Office of Compliance” and inserting  
9 “Office of Congressional Workplace Rights”.

10           (9) In section 215(e)(1) (2 U.S.C. 1341(e)(1)),  
11 by striking “Office of Compliance” and inserting  
12 “Office of Congressional Workplace Rights”.

13           (10) In section 220(e)(2)(G) (2 U.S.C.  
14 1351(e)(2)(G)), by striking “Office of Compliance”  
15 and inserting “Office of Congressional Workplace  
16 Rights”.

17           (11) In the heading of title III, by striking  
18 **“OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE”** and inserting  
19 **“OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORK-**  
20 **PLACE RIGHTS”**.

21           (12) In section 304(e)(4) (2 U.S.C.  
22 1384(e)(4)), by striking “Office of Compliance” and  
23 inserting “Office of Congressional Workplace  
24 Rights”.

1           (13) In section 304(e)(5) (2 U.S.C.  
2           1384(e)(5)), by striking “Office of Compliance” and  
3           inserting “Office of Congressional Workplace  
4           Rights”.

5           (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—The table of contents  
6 is amended—

7           (1) by amending the item relating to the head-  
8           ing of title III to read as follows:

          “TITLE III—OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS”;  
  AND

9           (2) by amending the item relating to section  
10          301 to read as follows:

          “Sec. 301. Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.”.

11          (d) REFERENCES IN OTHER LAWS, RULES, AND  
12 REGULATIONS.—Any reference to the Office of Compli-  
13 ance in any law, rule, regulation, or other official paper  
14 in effect as of the effective date of this Act shall be consid-  
15 ered to refer and apply to the Office of Congressional  
16 Workplace Rights.

17                                   **TITLE IV—HOUSE OF**  
18                                   **REPRESENTATIVES REFORMS**

19          **SEC. 401. MANDATORY ANTI-HARASSMENT AND ANTI-DIS-**  
20                                   **CRIMINATION POLICIES FOR HOUSE OF-**  
21                                   **FICES.**

22          (a) REQUIRING OFFICES TO ADOPT POLICY.—Each  
23          employing office of the House of Representatives shall



1 adopt an anti-harassment and anti-discrimination policy  
2 for the office's workplace.

3 (b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than June 1, 2018,  
4 the Committee on House Administration shall promulgate  
5 regulations to carry out this section, and shall ensure that  
6 such regulations are consistent with the requirements of  
7 the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995, the Code  
8 of Official Conduct under rule XXIII of the Rules of the  
9 House of Representatives, and other relevant laws, rules,  
10 and regulations.

11 **SEC. 402. OFFICE OF EMPLOYEE ADVOCACY.**

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the  
13 Office of the Chief Administrative Officer of the House  
14 of Representatives the Office of Employee Advocacy (here-  
15 after in this section referred to as the “Office”).

16 (b) FUNCTIONS.—

17 (1) LEGAL ASSISTANCE, CONSULTATION, AND  
18 REPRESENTATION.—Subject to subsection (c), the  
19 Office shall carry out the following functions:

20 (A) Providing legal assistance and con-  
21 sultation regarding procedures under the Con-  
22 gressional Accountability Act of 1995 and pro-  
23 cedures applicable to civil actions arising from  
24 claims made under such Act, including—

1 (i) the roles and responsibilities of the  
2 Office of Compliance, the Office of the  
3 House Employment Counsel, and similar  
4 authorities;

5 (ii) any proceedings conducted under  
6 such Act or pursuant to a civil action  
7 which the employee may observe;

8 (iii) the authority of the General  
9 Counsel of the Office of Compliance to  
10 compel cooperation and testimony under  
11 an investigation conducted under section  
12 403 of such Act and the authority of a  
13 hearing officer to compel cooperation and  
14 testimony under proceedings held under  
15 section 405 of such Act; and

16 (iv) the employee's duties relating to  
17 such proceedings, including the responsi-  
18 bility to testify.

19 (B) Providing legal assistance and rep-  
20 resentation—

21 (i) in personal civil legal matters re-  
22 lated to the employee's claim under such  
23 Act (other than a civil action filed under  
24 section 408 of such Act); and

1 (ii) in any proceedings of the Office of  
2 Compliance, the Committee on Ethics of  
3 the House of Representatives (including  
4 the Office of Congressional Ethics), or any  
5 other administrative or judicial body re-  
6 lated to the employee's claim.

7 (C) Operating a hotline through which cov-  
8 ered employees of the House may contact the  
9 Office.

10 (2) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE IN  
11 ANY JURISDICTION.—Notwithstanding any law re-  
12 garding the licensure of attorneys, an attorney who  
13 is employed by the Office and is authorized to pro-  
14 vide legal assistance and representation under this  
15 section is authorized to provide that assistance and  
16 representation in any jurisdiction, subject to such  
17 regulations as may be prescribed by the Office.

18 (3) NATURE OF RELATIONSHIP.—The relation-  
19 ship between the Office and an employee to whom  
20 the Office provides legal assistance and representa-  
21 tion under this section shall be the relationship be-  
22 tween an attorney and client.

23 (4) PROHIBITING ACCEPTANCE OF AWARD OF  
24 ATTORNEY FEES OR OTHER COSTS.—The Office may  
25 not accept any award of attorney fees or other litiga-

1       tion expenses and costs under any hearing or civil  
2       action brought under the Congressional Account-  
3       ability Act of 1995.

4       (c) PROHIBITING PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE UPON  
5       FILING OF CIVIL ACTION.—If a covered employee of the  
6       House who has filed a claim under section 402 of the Con-  
7       gressional Accountability Act of 1995 files a civil action  
8       with respect to the claim involved, as provided in section  
9       408 of such Act, the Office may not provide assistance  
10      under this section to the employee at any time after the  
11      employee files such action.

12      (d) DIRECTOR.—

13           (1) APPOINTMENT.—The Office shall be headed  
14      by a Director who shall be appointed by the Chief  
15      Administrative Officer of the House of Representa-  
16      tives.

17           (2) QUALIFICATIONS; NONPARTISANSHIP OF PO-  
18      SITION.—The individual appointed as Director shall  
19      be a lawyer who is admitted to practice before the  
20      United States District Court for the District of Co-  
21      lumbia and who has experience in representing em-  
22      ployees in workplace discrimination cases.

23           (3) COMPENSATION.—The Director shall be  
24      paid at an annual rate established by the Chief Ad-  
25      ministrative Officer.

1           (4) REMOVAL.—The Director may be removed  
2           by the Chief Administrative Officer only for cause.

3           (e) OTHER PERSONNEL.—Subject to regulations of  
4 the Committee on House Administration and with the ap-  
5 proval of the Chief Administrative Officer, the Director  
6 may appoint and fix the compensation of such additional  
7 personnel as the Director determines to be necessary to  
8 carry out the functions of the Office.

9           (f) NONPARTISANSHIP OF POSITIONS.—The Director  
10 and the other personnel of the Office shall be appointed  
11 without regard to political affiliation and solely on the  
12 basis of fitness to perform the duties of the position.

13 **SEC. 403. FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE OF HOUSE EMPLOYMENT**  
14 **COUNSEL.**

15           (a) FUNCTIONS DESCRIBED.—The Office of the  
16 House Employment Counsel established under the Office  
17 of the Clerk of the House of Representatives shall carry  
18 out all of the functions which the Office carried out as  
19 of the date of the enactment of this Act, including the  
20 following:

21           (1) Providing legal assistance and representa-  
22           tion to employing offices of the House with respect  
23           to allegations, claims, and civil actions under the  
24           Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 which are

1 brought by covered employees of the House under  
2 such Act.

3 (2) Providing employing offices of the House  
4 with confidential advice and counseling regarding  
5 compliance with employment laws.

6 (3) Providing training to managers and employ-  
7 ees regarding employment law compliance.

8 (b) NO EFFECT ON PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Noth-  
9 ing in this section may be construed to affect any pro-  
10 ceeding to which the Office is a party that is pending on  
11 the date of the enactment of this Act, including any suit  
12 to which the Office is a party that is commenced prior  
13 to such date.

14 **SEC. 404. REQUIRING INCLUSION OF CERTIFICATIONS ON**  
15 **PAYROLL AUTHORIZATION FORMS OF HOUSE**  
16 **OF REPRESENTATIVES OF NO CONNECTION**  
17 **BETWEEN PAYROLL ACTIONS AND CLAIMS**  
18 **RELATING TO CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNT-**  
19 **ABILITY ACT OF 1995.**

20 (a) REQUIRING INCLUSION OF CERTIFICATION ON  
21 FORMS.—The Chief Administrative Officer of the House  
22 of Representatives shall incorporate, as part of the Payroll  
23 Authorization Form used by an office of the House to reg-  
24 ister the appointment of an employee to the office or a

1 salary adjustment or title change with respect to an em-  
2 ployee of the office—

3 (1) a certification to be made by the author-  
4 izing official of the office that the appointment, sal-  
5 ary adjustment, or title change is not made to pay  
6 a settlement or award in connection with conduct  
7 prohibited under the Congressional Accountability  
8 Act of 1995; and

9 (2) in the case of an office of a Member of the  
10 House, a certification by the Member that any  
11 amounts in the Members' Representational Allow-  
12 ance for the office which may be used to carry out  
13 the appointment, salary adjustment, or title change  
14 are not being used to pay a settlement or award in  
15 connection with conduct prohibited under such Act.

16 (b) **REQUIRING CERTIFICATION AS CONDITION OF**  
17 **PROCESSING PAYROLL ACTION.**—The Chief Administra-  
18 tive Officer may not process any Payroll Authorization  
19 Form with respect to an office of the House if the Form  
20 does not include the certifications required with respect  
21 to that office under subsection (a).

22 **SEC. 405. SEXUAL HARASSMENT AS VIOLATION OF HOUSE**  
23 **CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.**

24 Clause 9 of rule XXIII of the Rules of the House  
25 of Representatives is amended by striking “such indi-

1 vidual,” and inserting “such individual, including by com-  
2 mitting an act of sexual harassment against such indi-  
3 vidual,”.

4 **SEC. 406. SEXUAL RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN HOUSE MEM-**  
5 **BERS AND EMPLOYEES AND UNWELCOME**  
6 **SEXUAL ADVANCES AS VIOLATION OF HOUSE**  
7 **CODE OF OFFICIAL CONDUCT.**

8 Rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representa-  
9 tives is amended—

10 (1) by redesignating clause 18 as clause 19;

11 and

12 (2) by inserting after clause 17 the following  
13 new clause:

14 “18.(a) A Member, Delegate, or Resident Commis-  
15 sioner may not engage in a sexual relationship with any  
16 employee of the House who works under the supervision  
17 of the Member, Delegate, or Resident Commissioner. This  
18 paragraph does not apply with respect to any relationship  
19 between two people who are married to each other.

20 “(b) A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner,  
21 officer, or employee of the House may not engage in un-  
22 welcome sexual advances or conduct towards another  
23 Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or em-  
24 ployee of the House.



1 “(c) In this clause, the term ‘employee’ includes an  
2 applicant for employment, a paid or unpaid intern (includ-  
3 ing an applicant for an internship), a detailee, and an indi-  
4 vidual participating in a fellowship program.”.

5 **SEC. 407. EFFECT OF FILING OF CLAIM UNDER CONGRES-**  
6 **SIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 ON**  
7 **AUTHORITY OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL**  
8 **ETHICS TO CONSIDER CLAIMS.**

9 The Office of Congressional Ethics may not initiate  
10 or continue any investigation of a claim alleging a violation  
11 of law made applicable to employing offices of the House  
12 of Representatives under part A of title II of the Congres-  
13 sional Accountability Act of 1995, or make any rec-  
14 ommendations regarding the disposition of such a claim,  
15 if a covered employee files a claim with respect to the al-  
16 leged violation under title IV of such Act.

17 **SEC. 409. EXERCISE OF RULEMAKING AUTHORITY.**

18 The provisions of this title are enacted—

19 (1) as an exercise of the rulemaking power of  
20 the House of Representatives, and as such they shall  
21 be considered as part of the rules of the House, and  
22 shall supersede other rules only to the extent that  
23 they are inconsistent therewith; and

24 (2) with full recognition of the constitutional  
25 right of the House to change such rules at any time,

1 in the same manner, and to the same extent as in  
2 the case of any other rule of the House.

3 **TITLE V—EFFECTIVE DATE**

4 **SEC. 501. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided, this  
6 Act and the amendments made by this Act shall take ef-  
7 fect upon the expiration of the 180-day period which be-  
8 gins on the date of the enactment of this Act.

9 (b) NO EFFECT ON PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Noth-  
10 ing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may  
11 be construed to affect any proceeding under title IV of  
12 the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 which is  
13 pending as of the date of the enactment of this Act.