

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R. 7**

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**AN ACT**

To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, 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.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Paycheck Fairness  
3 Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) Women have entered the workforce in  
7 record numbers over the past 50 years.

8 (2) Despite the enactment of the Equal Pay Act  
9 of 1963, many women continue to earn significantly  
10 lower pay than men for equal work. These pay dis-  
11 parities exist in both the private and governmental  
12 sectors. Pay disparities are especially severe for  
13 women and girls of color.

14 (3) In many instances, the pay disparities can  
15 only be due to continued intentional discrimination  
16 or the lingering effects of past discrimination. After  
17 controlling for educational attainment, occupation,  
18 industry, union status, race, ethnicity, and labor  
19 force experience roughly 40 percent of the pay gap  
20 remains unexplained.

21 (4) The existence of such pay disparities—

22 (A) depresses the wages of working fami-  
23 lies who rely on the wages of all members of the  
24 family to make ends meet;

(B) undermines women's retirement security, which is often based on earnings while in the workforce;

(C) prevents women from realizing their full economic potential, particularly in terms of labor force participation and attachment;

(D) has been spread and perpetuated, through commerce and the channels and instrumentalities of commerce, among the workers of the several States;

(E) burdens commerce and the free flow of goods in commerce;

(F) constitutes an unfair method of competition in commerce;

(G) tends to cause labor disputes, as evidenced by the tens of thousands of charges filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission against employers between 2010 and 2016;

(H) interferes with the orderly and fair marketing of goods in commerce; and

(I) in many instances, may deprive workers of equal protection on the basis of sex in violation of the 5th and 14th Amendments to the Constitution.

7 (B) These barriers have resulted, in significant  
8 part, because the Equal Pay Act of 1963 has not  
9 worked as Congress originally intended. Improve-  
10 ments and modifications to the law are necessary to  
11 ensure that the Act provides effective protection to  
12 those subject to pay discrimination on the basis of  
13 their sex.

14 (C) Elimination of such barriers would have  
15 positive effects, including—

16 (i) providing a solution to problems in the  
17 economy created by unfair pay disparities;

18 (ii) substantially reducing the number of  
19 working women earning unfairly low wages,  
20 thereby reducing the dependence on public as-  
21 sistance;

22 (iii) promoting stable families by enabling  
23 all family members to earn a fair rate of pay;

24 (iv) remedying the effects of past discrimi-  
25 nation on the basis of sex and ensuring that in

1           the future workers are afforded equal protection  
2           on the basis of sex; and

3 (v) ensuring equal protection pursuant to  
4 Congress' power to enforce the 5th and 14th  
5 Amendments to the Constitution.

6 (6) The Department of Labor and the Equal  
7 Employment Opportunity Commission carry out  
8 functions to help ensure that women receive equal  
9 pay for equal work.

12 (A) collecting and making publicly avail-  
13 able information about women's pay;

14 (B) ensuring that companies receiving  
15 Federal contracts comply with anti-discrimina-  
16 tion affirmative action requirements of Execu-  
17 tive Order 11246 (relating to equal employment  
18 opportunity);

19 (C) disseminating information about women's rights in the workplace;  
20

21 (D) helping women who have been victims  
22 of pay discrimination obtain a remedy; and

23 (E) investigating and prosecuting systemic  
24 gender based pay discrimination involving gov-  
25 ernment contractors.

1 (8) The Equal Employment Opportunity Com-  
2 mission is the primary enforcement agency for  
3 claims made under the Equal Pay Act of 1963, and  
4 issues regulations and guidance on appropriate in-  
5 terpretations of the law.

12 (10) Certain employers have already made  
13 great strides in eradicating unfair pay disparities in  
14 the workplace and their achievements should be rec-  
15 ognized.

16 SEC. 3. ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT OF EQUAL PAY RE-  
17 QUIREMENTS.

18 (a) BONA FIDE FACTOR DEFENSE AND MODIFICA-  
19 TION OF SAME ESTABLISHMENT REQUIREMENT.—Section  
20 6(d)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29  
21 U.S.C. 206(d)(1)) is amended—

22 (1) by striking “No employer having” and in-  
23 inserting “(A) No employer having”;

4 (3) by inserting at the end the following:

5       “(B) The bona fide factor defense described in sub-  
6 paragraph (A)(iv) shall apply only if the employer dem-  
7 onstrates that such factor (i) is not based upon or derived  
8 from a sex-based differential in compensation; (ii) is job-  
9 related with respect to the position in question; (iii) is con-  
10 sistent with business necessity; and (iv) accounts for the  
11 entire differential in compensation at issue. Such defense  
12 shall not apply where the employee demonstrates that an  
13 alternative employment practice exists that would serve  
14 the same business purpose without producing such dif-  
15 ferential and that the employer has refused to adopt such  
16 alternative practice.

17       “(C) For purposes of subparagraph (A), employees  
18 shall be deemed to work in the same establishment if the  
19 employees work for the same employer at workplaces lo-  
20 cated in the same county or similar political subdivision  
21 of a State. The preceding sentence shall not be construed  
22 as limiting broader applications of the term ‘establish-  
23 ment’ consistent with rules prescribed or guidance issued  
24 by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.”.

1       (b) NONRETALIATION PROVISION.—Section 15 of the  
2 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 215) is  
3 amended—

4           (1) in subsection (a)—

5               (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “em-  
6 ployee has filed” and all that follows and insert-  
7 ing “employee—

8               “(A) has made a charge or filed any com-  
9 plaint or instituted or caused to be instituted  
10 any investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action  
11 under or related to this Act, including an inves-  
12 tigation conducted by the employer, or has tes-  
13 tified or is planning to testify or has assisted or  
14 participated in any manner in any such inves-  
15 tigation, proceeding, hearing or action, or has  
16 served or is planning to serve on an industry  
17 committee; or

18               “(B) has inquired about, discussed, or dis-  
19 closed the wages of the employee or another  
20 employee (such as by inquiring or discussing  
21 with the employer why the wages of the em-  
22 ployee are set at a certain rate or salary);”;

23               (B) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-  
24 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

25               (C) by adding at the end the following:

1               “(6) to require an employee to sign a contract  
2       or waiver that would prohibit the employee from dis-  
3       closing information about the employee’s wages.”;  
4       and

5               (2) by adding at the end the following:  
6       “(c) Subsection (a)(3)(B) shall not apply to instances  
7       in which an employee who has access to the wage informa-  
8       tion of other employees as a part of such employee’s essen-  
9       tial job functions discloses the wages of such other employ-  
10      ees to individuals who do not otherwise have access to such  
11      information, unless such disclosure is in response to a  
12      complaint or charge or in furtherance of an investigation,  
13      proceeding, hearing, or action under section 6(d), includ-  
14      ing an investigation conducted by the employer. Nothing  
15      in this subsection shall be construed to limit the rights  
16      of an employee provided under any other provision of  
17      law.”.

18               (c) ENHANCED PENALTIES.—Section 16(b) of the  
19      Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216(b)) is  
20      amended—

21               (1) by inserting after the first sentence the fol-  
22       lowing: “Any employer who violates section 6(d)  
23       shall additionally be liable for such compensatory  
24       damages, or, where the employee demonstrates that  
25       the employer acted with malice or reckless indiffer-

1       ence, punitive damages as may be appropriate, ex-  
2       cept that the United States shall not be liable for  
3       punitive damages.”;

4               (2) in the sentence beginning “An action to”,  
5       by striking “the preceding sentences” and inserting  
6       “any of the preceding sentences of this subsection”;

7               (3) in the sentence beginning “No employees  
8       shall”, by striking “No employees” and inserting  
9       “Except with respect to class actions brought to en-  
10      force section 6(d), no employee”;

11               (4) by inserting after the sentence referred to  
12      in paragraph (3), the following: “Notwithstanding  
13      any other provision of Federal law, any action  
14      brought to enforce section 6(d) may be maintained  
15      as a class action as provided by the Federal Rules  
16      of Civil Procedure.”; and

17               (5) in the sentence beginning “The court in”—  
18                       (A) by striking “in such action” and in-  
19       serting “in any action brought to recover the li-  
20       ability prescribed in any of the preceding sen-  
21       tences of this subsection”; and

22                       (B) by inserting before the period the fol-  
23       lowing: “, including expert fees”.

1       (d) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—Section 16(c) of the  
2 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216(c)) is  
3 amended—

4               (1) in the first sentence—

5                       (A) by inserting “or, in the case of a viola-  
6 tion of section 6(d), additional compensatory or  
7 punitive damages, as described in subsection  
8 (b),” before “and the agreement”; and

9                       (B) by inserting before the period the fol-  
10 lowing: “, or such compensatory or punitive  
11 damages, as appropriate”;

12               (2) in the second sentence, by inserting before  
13 the period the following: “and, in the case of a viola-  
14 tion of section 6(d), additional compensatory or pu-  
15 nitive damages, as described in subsection (b)”;

16               (3) in the third sentence, by striking “the first  
17 sentence” and inserting “the first or second sen-  
18 tence”; and

19               (4) in the sixth sentence—

20                       (A) by striking “commenced in the case”  
21 and inserting “commenced—  
22 “(1) in the case”;

23                       (B) by striking the period and inserting “;  
24 or”; and

25                       (C) by adding at the end the following:

1               “(2) in the case of a class action brought to en-  
2               force section 6(d), on the date on which the indi-  
3               vidual becomes a party plaintiff to the class action.”.

4 **SEC. 4. TRAINING.**

5               The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
6 and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs,  
7 subject to the availability of funds appropriated under sec-  
8 tion 11, shall provide training to Commission employees  
9 and affected individuals and entities on matters involving  
10 discrimination in the payment of wages.

11 **SEC. 5. NEGOTIATION SKILLS TRAINING.**

12               (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

13               (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor,  
14 after consultation with the Secretary of Education,  
15 is authorized to establish and carry out a grant pro-  
16 gram.

17               (2) GRANTS.—In carrying out the program, the  
18 Secretary of Labor may make grants on a competi-  
19 tive basis to eligible entities to carry out negotiation  
20 skills training programs for the purposes of address-  
21 ing pay disparities, including through outreach to  
22 women and girls.

23               (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to re-  
24 ceive a grant under this subsection, an entity shall  
25 be a public agency, such as a State, a local govern-

1       ment in a metropolitan statistical area (as defined  
2       by the Office of Management and Budget), a State  
3       educational agency, or a local educational agency, a  
4       private nonprofit organization, or a community-  
5       based organization.

6               (4) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a  
7       grant under this subsection, an entity shall submit  
8       an application to the Secretary of Labor at such  
9       time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
10      tion as the Secretary of Labor may require.

11               (5) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity that receives a  
12       grant under this subsection shall use the funds made  
13       available through the grant to carry out an effective  
14       negotiation skills training program for the purposes  
15       described in paragraph (2).

16               (b) INCORPORATING TRAINING INTO EXISTING PRO-  
17       GRAMS.—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of  
18       Education shall issue regulations or policy guidance that  
19       provides for integrating the negotiation skills training, to  
20       the extent practicable, into programs authorized under—

21                       (1) in the case of the Secretary of Education,  
22       the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
23       1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins  
24       Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20  
25       U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), the Higher Education Act of

1       1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and other programs  
2       carried out by the Department of Education that the  
3       Secretary of Education determines to be appro-  
4       priate; and

5               (2) in the case of the Secretary of Labor, the  
6       Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29  
7       U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), and other programs carried  
8       out by the Department of Labor that the Secretary  
9       of Labor determines to be appropriate.

10       (c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the  
11      date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
12      the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary  
13      of Education, shall prepare and submit to Congress a re-  
14      port describing the activities conducted under this section  
15      and evaluating the effectiveness of such activities in  
16      achieving the purposes of this section.

17      **SEC. 6. RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH.**

18       (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after  
19      the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically there-  
20      after, the Secretary of Labor shall conduct studies and  
21      provide information to employers, labor organizations, and  
22      the general public concerning the means available to elimi-  
23      nate pay disparities between men and women (including  
24      women who are Asian American, Black or African-Amer-  
25      ican, Hispanic American or Latino, Native American or

1 Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and  
2 White American), including—

14 (3) sponsoring and assisting State, local, and  
15 community informational and educational programs;

20 (5) recognizing and promoting the achievements  
21 of employers, labor organizations, and professional  
22 associations that have worked to eliminate the pay  
23 disparities.

24 (b) REPORT ON GENDER PAY GAP IN TEENAGE  
25 LABOR FORCE.—

10 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection  
11 (a) shall include the following:

12 (A) An examination of trends and potential  
13 solutions relating to the teenage gender pay  
14 gap.

15 (B) An examination of how the teenage  
16 gender pay gap potentially translates into  
17 greater wage gaps in the overall labor force.

18 (C) An examination of overall lifetime  
19 earnings and losses for informal and formal  
20 jobs for women, including women of color.

(D) An examination of the teenage gender pay gap, including a comparison of the average amount earned by males and females, respectively, in informal jobs, such as babysitting and

1 other freelance jobs, as well as formal jobs,  
2 such as retail, restaurant, and customer service.

3 (E) A comparison of —

4 (i) the types of tasks typically per-  
5 formed by women from the teenage years  
6 through adulthood within certain informal  
7 jobs, such as babysitting and other free-  
8 lance jobs, and formal jobs, such as retail,  
9 restaurant, and customer service; and

10 (ii) the types of tasks performed by  
11 younger males in such positions.

12 (F) Interviews and surveys with workers  
13 and employers relating to early gender-based  
14 pay discrepancies.

15 (G) Recommendations for—

16 (i) addressing pay inequality for  
17 women from the teenage years through  
18 adulthood, including such women of color;

19 (ii) addressing any disadvantages ex-  
20 perienced by young women with respect to  
21 work experience and professional develop-  
22 ment;

23 (iii) the development of standards and  
24 best practices for workers and employees  
25 to ensure better pay for young women and

1 the prevention of early inequalities in the  
2 workplace; and

3 (iv) expanding awareness for teenage  
4 girls on pay rates and employment rights  
5 in order to reduce greater inequalities in  
6 the overall labor force.

7 SEC. 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL AWARD FOR  
8 PAY EQUITY IN THE WORKPLACE.

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Secretary  
10 of Labor's National Award for Pay Equity in the Work-  
11 place, which shall be awarded, on an annual basis, to an  
12 employer to encourage proactive efforts to comply with  
13 section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29  
14 U.S.C. 206(d)), as amended by this Act.

15 (b) CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION.—The Secretary  
16 of Labor shall set criteria for receipt of the award, includ-  
17 ing a requirement that an employer has made substantial  
18 effort to eliminate pay disparities between men and  
19 women, and deserves special recognition as a consequence  
20 of such effort. The Secretary shall establish procedures for  
21 the application and presentation of the award.

22 (c) BUSINESS.—In this section, the term “employer”  
23 includes—

24 (1)(A) a corporation, including a nonprofit cor-  
25 poration;

1 (B) a partnership;

2 (C) a professional association;

3 (D) a labor organization; and

4 (E) a business entity similar to an entity de-

5 scribed in any of subparagraphs (A) through (D);

6 (2) an entity carrying out an education referral

7 program, a training program, such as an apprenticeship or management training program, or a similar

8 program; and

9 (3) an entity carrying out a joint program,

10 formed by a combination of any entities described in

11 paragraph (1) or (2).

12

13 SEC. 8. COLLECTION OF PAY INFORMATION BY THE EQUAL  
14 EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION.

15 Section 709 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42  
16 U.S.C. 2000e-8) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18       “(f)(1) Not later than 18 months after the date of  
19 enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall pro-  
20 vide for the collection from employers of compensation  
21 data and other employment-related data (including hiring,  
22 termination, and promotion data) disaggregated by the  
23 sex, race, and ethnic identity of employees.

24       “(2) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission  
25 shall have as its primary consideration the most effective

1 and efficient means for enhancing the enforcement of Fed-  
2 eral laws prohibiting pay discrimination. For this purpose,  
3 the Commission shall consider factors including the impo-  
4 sition of burdens on employers, the frequency of required  
5 reports (including the size of employers required to pre-  
6 pare reports), appropriate protections for maintaining  
7 data confidentiality, and the most effective format to re-  
8 port such data.

9       “(3)(A) For each 12-month reporting period for an  
10 employer, the compensation data collected under para-  
11 graph (1) shall include, for each range of taxable com-  
12 pensation described in subparagraph (B), disaggregated  
13 by the categories described in subparagraph (E)—

14           “(i) the number of employees of the employer  
15 who earn taxable compensation in an amount that  
16 falls within such taxable compensation range; and  
17           “(ii) the total number of hours worked by such  
18 employees.

19       “(B) Subject to adjustment under subparagraph (C),  
20 the taxable compensation ranges described in this sub-  
21 paragraph are as follows:

22           “(i) Not more than \$19,239.  
23           “(ii) Not less than \$19,240 and not more than  
24           \$24,439.

1           “(iii) Not less than \$24,440 and not more than  
2           \$30,679.

3           “(iv) Not less than \$30,680 and not more than  
4           \$38,999.

5           “(v) Not less than \$39,000 and not more than  
6           \$49,919.

7           “(vi) Not less than \$49,920 and not more than  
8           \$62,919.

9           “(vii) Not less than \$62,920 and not more than  
10           \$80,079.

11           “(viii) Not less than \$80,080 and not more  
12           than \$101,919.

13           “(ix) Not less than \$101,920 and not more  
14           than \$128,959.

15           “(x) Not less than \$128,960 and not more than  
16           \$163,799.

17           “(xi) Not less than \$163,800 and not more  
18           than \$207,999.

19           “(xii) Not less than \$208,000.

20           “(C) The Commission may adjust the taxable com-  
21           pensation ranges under subparagraph (B)—

22           “(i) if the Commission determines that such ad-  
23           justment is necessary to enhance enforcement of  
24           Federal laws prohibiting pay discrimination; or

1           “(ii) for inflation, in consultation with the Bu-  
2        reau of Labor Statistics.

3           “(D) In collecting data described in subparagraph  
4 (A)(ii), the Commission shall provide that, with respect  
5 to an employee who the employer is not required to com-  
6 pensate for overtime employment under section 7 of the  
7 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207), an  
8 employer may report—

9           “(i) in the case of a full-time employee, that  
10       such employee works 40 hours per week, and in the  
11       case of a part-time employee, that such employee  
12       works 20 hours per week; or

13           “(ii) the actual number of hours worked by  
14       such employee.

15           “(E) The categories described in this subparagraph  
16       shall be determined by the Commission and shall in-  
17       clude—

18           “(i) race;

19           “(ii) ethnic identity;

20           “(iii) sex; and

21           “(iv) job categories, including the job categories  
22       described in the instructions for the Equal Employ-  
23       ment Opportunity Employer Information Report  
24       EEO-1, as in effect on the date of the enactment  
25       of this subsection.

1       “(F) The Commission shall use the compensation  
2 data collected under paragraph (1)—

3           “(i) to enhance—

4              “(I) the investigation of charges filed  
5 under section 706 or section 6(d) of the Fair  
6 Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C.  
7 206(d)); and

8              “(II) the allocation of resources to inves-  
9 tigate such charges; and

10           “(ii) for any other purpose that the Commission  
11 determines appropriate.

12       “(G) The Commission shall annually make publicly  
13 available aggregate compensation data collected under  
14 paragraph (1) for the categories described in subpara-  
15 graph (E), disaggregated by industry, occupation, and  
16 core based statistical area (as defined by the Office of  
17 Management and Budget).

18       “(4) The compensation data under paragraph (1)  
19 shall be collected from each employer that—

20           “(A) is a private employer that has 100 or  
21 more employees, including such an employer that is  
22 a contractor with the Federal Government, or a sub-  
23 contractor at any tier thereof; or

24           “(B) the Commission determines appropriate.”.

1   **SEC. 9. REINSTATEMENT OF PAY EQUITY PROGRAMS AND**  
2                   **PAY EQUITY DATA COLLECTION.**

3               (a) BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS DATA COLLEC-  
4   TION.—The Commissioner of Labor Statistics shall con-  
5   tinue to collect data on women workers in the Current  
6   Employment Statistics survey.

7               (b) OFFICE OF FEDERAL CONTRACT COMPLIANCE  
8   PROGRAMS INITIATIVES.—The Director of the Office of  
9   Federal Contract Compliance Programs shall ensure that  
10   employees of the Office—

11               (1)(A) shall use the full range of investigatory  
12   tools at the Office’s disposal, including pay grade  
13   methodology;

14               (B) in considering evidence of possible com-  
15   pensation discrimination—

16               (i) shall not limit its consideration to a  
17   small number of types of evidence; and

18               (ii) shall not limit its evaluation of the evi-  
19   dence to a small number of methods of evalu-  
20   ating the evidence; and

21               (C) shall not require a multiple regression anal-  
22   ysis or anecdotal evidence for a compensation dis-  
23   crimination case;

24               (2) for purposes of its investigative, compliance,  
25   and enforcement activities, shall define “similarly  
26   situated employees” in a way that is consistent with

1 and not more stringent than the definition provided  
2 in item 1 of subsection A of section 10-III of the  
3 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Com-  
4 pliance Manual (2000), and shall consider only fac-  
5 tors that the Office's investigation reveals were used  
6 in making compensation decisions; and

7 (3) shall implement a survey to collect com-  
8 pensation data and other employment-related data  
9 (including hiring, termination, and promotion data)  
10 and designate not less than half of all nonconstruc-  
11 tion contractor establishments each year to prepare  
12 and file such survey, and shall review and utilize the  
13 responses to such survey to identify contractor es-  
14 tablishments for further evaluation and for other en-  
15 forcement purposes as appropriate.

16 (c) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DISTRIBUTION OF  
17 WAGE DISCRIMINATION INFORMATION.—The Secretary of  
18 Labor shall make readily available (in print, on the De-  
19 partment of Labor website, and through any other forum  
20 that the Department may use to distribute compensation  
21 discrimination information), accurate information on com-  
22 pensation discrimination, including statistics, explanations  
23 of employee rights, historical analyses of such discrimina-  
24 tion, instructions for employers on compliance, and any

1 other information that will assist the public in under-  
2 standing and addressing such discrimination.

3 **SEC. 10. PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO PROSPECTIVE EM-  
4 PLOYEES' SALARY AND BENEFIT HISTORY.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Labor Standards Act of  
6 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by inserting  
7 after section 7 the following new section:

8 **“SEC. 8. REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO  
9 WAGE, SALARY, AND BENEFIT HISTORY.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be an unlawful practice  
11 for an employer to—

12 “(1) rely on the wage history of a prospective  
13 employee in considering the prospective employee for  
14 employment, including requiring that a prospective  
15 employee’s prior wages satisfy minimum or max-  
16 imum criteria as a condition of being considered for  
17 employment;

18 “(2) rely on the wage history of a prospective  
19 employee in determining the wages for such prospec-  
20 tive employee, except that an employer may rely on  
21 wage history if it is voluntarily provided by a pro-  
22 spective employee, after the employer makes an offer  
23 of employment with an offer of compensation to the  
24 prospective employee, to support a wage higher than  
25 the wage offered by the employer;

1           “(3) seek from a prospective employee or any  
2        current or former employer the wage history of the  
3        prospective employee, except that an employer may  
4        seek to confirm prior wage information only after an  
5        offer of employment with compensation has been  
6        made to the prospective employee and the prospec-  
7        tive employee responds to the offer by providing  
8        prior wage information to support a wage higher  
9        than that offered by the employer; or

10           “(4) discharge or in any other manner retaliate  
11        against any employee or prospective employee be-  
12        cause the employee or prospective employee—

13           “(A) opposed any act or practice made un-  
14        lawful by this section; or

15           “(B) took an action for which discrimina-  
16        tion is forbidden under section 15(a)(3).

17           “(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term ‘wage  
18        history’ means the wages paid to the prospective employee  
19        by the prospective employee’s current employer or previous  
20        employer.”.

21           (b) **PENALTIES.**—Section 16 of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
22 216) is amended by adding at the end the following new  
23 subsection:

24           “(f)(1) Any person who violates the provisions of sec-  
25        tion 8 shall—

1           “(A) be subject to a civil penalty of \$5,000 for  
2       a first offense, increased by an additional \$1,000 for  
3       each subsequent offense, not to exceed \$10,000; and

4           “(B) be liable to each employee or prospective  
5       employee who was the subject of the violation for  
6       special damages not to exceed \$10,000 plus attor-  
7       neys' fees, and shall be subject to such injunctive re-  
8       lief as may be appropriate.

9           “(2) An action to recover the liability described in  
10      paragraph (1)(B) may be maintained against any em-  
11      ployer (including a public agency) in any Federal or State  
12      court of competent jurisdiction by any one or more em-  
13      ployees or prospective employees for and on behalf of—

14           “(A) the employees or prospective employees;  
15       and

16           “(B) other employees or prospective employees  
17       similarly situated.”.

18 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19           (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
20      are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
21      necessary to carry out this Act.

22           (b) PROHIBITION ON EARMARKS.—None of the funds  
23      appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) for purposes of  
24      the grant program in section 5 of this Act may be used

1 for a congressional earmark as defined in clause 9(e) of  
2 rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

3 **SEC. 12. SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE.**

4 (a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This Act and the amend-  
5 ments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that  
6 is 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

7 (b) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MATERIALS.**—The Sec-  
8 retary of Labor and the Commissioner of the Equal Em-  
9 ployment Opportunity Commission shall jointly develop  
10 technical assistance material to assist small enterprises in  
11 complying with the requirements of this Act and the  
12 amendments made by this Act.

13 (c) **SMALL BUSINESSES.**—A small enterprise shall be  
14 exempt from the provisions of this Act, and the amend-  
15 ments made by this Act, to the same extent that such en-  
16 terprise is exempt from the requirements of the Fair  
17 Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) pur-  
18 suant to clauses (i) and (ii) of section 3(s)(1)(A) of such  
19 Act (29 U.S.C. 203(s)(1)(A)).

20 **SEC. 13. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

21 Nothing in this Act, or in any amendments made by  
22 this Act, shall affect the obligation of employers and em-  
23 ployees to fully comply with all applicable immigration  
24 laws, including being subject to any penalties, fines, or  
25 other sanctions.

1 **SEC. 14. SEVERABILITY.**

2        If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by  
3 this Act, or the application of that provision or amend-  
4 ment to particular persons or circumstances is held invalid  
5 or found to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act,  
6 the amendments made by this Act, or the application of  
7 that provision to other persons or circumstances shall not  
8 be affected.

Passed the House of Representatives March 27,  
2019.

Attest:

*Clerk.*



116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> SESSION

**H. R. 7**

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**AN ACT**

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To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.