

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7317

To authorize a public service announcement campaign on the efficacy of cloth face coverings in reducing the spread of COVID–19, to authorize a program to provide cloth face coverings to any American who requests one free of charge, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 24, 2020

Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CASTEN of Illinois, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HASTINGS, Mr. SIRES, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. GALLEGRO, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SEWELL of Alabama, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. SOTO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. COHEN, Mr. VELA, Ms. HAALAND, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WILD, and Ms. SCANLON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To authorize a public service announcement campaign on the efficacy of cloth face coverings in reducing the spread of COVID–19, to authorize a program to provide cloth face coverings to any American who requests one free of charge, 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 “Masks Work Act of  
3 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds the following:

6 (1) The SARS–CoV–2 virus has killed over  
7 110,000 Americans and infected at least 2,000,000  
8 others.

9 (2) The measures taken to contain the virus, in-  
10 cluding social distancing and stay at home orders,  
11 have resulted in a significant economic disruption,  
12 causing tens of millions of Americans to lose jobs  
13 and income.

14 (3) Scientific experts, including Dr. Anthony  
15 Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy  
16 and Infectious Diseases, have warned of the danger  
17 of a second wave of infections striking the United  
18 States in fall and winter.

19 (4) Scientific experts within the United States  
20 Government and elsewhere have strongly advised  
21 Americans to wear cloth face coverings as a means  
22 to slow the spread of COVID–19 and have stated  
23 that wearing cloth face coverings may reduce the  
24 spread of respiratory droplets that may carry the  
25 disease.

1           (5) There is a growing body of scientific re-  
2           search indicating that high levels of cloth face cov-  
3           ering adoption by a population can reduce trans-  
4           mission of the virus, and may prevent asymptomatic  
5           or presymptomatic carriers from unknowingly infect-  
6           ing others.

7           (6) One scientific model estimated that if 80  
8           percent of the population adopted proper face cov-  
9           ering use, transmission would be  $\frac{1}{12}$  what it would  
10          be in a population without wearing cloth face cov-  
11          erings. Another newly released study conducted with  
12          animals found that face coverings reduced trans-  
13          mission of COVID–19 by 75 percent.

14          (7) Nations in Southeast Asia with high levels  
15          of cloth face covering wearing have been more effec-  
16          tive than others in reducing the spread of COVID–  
17          19, and have experienced comparably fewer infec-  
18          tions and deaths as a result.

19          (8) A recent study from the University of  
20          Iowa’s College of Public Health suggests that the 15  
21          States and the District of Columbia, having man-  
22          dated wearing face coverings in public between April  
23          8, 2020, and May 15, 2020, averted as many as  
24          230,000 to 450,000 COVID–19 cases.

1           (9) Many Americans have heeded the calls of  
2 public health experts to wear cloth face coverings  
3 and have made major sacrifices in other aspects of  
4 their life in order to control the spread of the virus.

5 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

6 It is the sense of Congress that —

7           (1) following the consensus advice of public  
8 health experts to wear face coverings can meaning-  
9 fully reduce transmission rates for COVID–19, re-  
10 sulting in fewer deaths, fewer Americans made seri-  
11 ously ill, and lower economic disruption;

12           (2) Americans should wear appropriate face  
13 coverings in situations where social distancing is dif-  
14 ficult or impossible, particularly in indoors environ-  
15 ments, both to protect themselves and to protect  
16 older Americans or others with health conditions  
17 that increase the risks of serious illness due to  
18 COVID–19; and

19           (3) leaders across the political spectrum should  
20 model medically recommended behaviors by wearing  
21 face coverings appropriately and encouraging those  
22 around them to do the same.

23 **SEC. 4. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAMPAIGN.**

24           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Centers for  
25 Disease Control and Prevention (in this section referred

1 to as the “Director”) shall carry out a public service an-  
2 nouncement campaign campaign on television, radio, the  
3 internet, and digital platforms, and in print publications,  
4 informing Americans on—

5 (1) the efficacy of cloth face coverings; and

6 (2) why cloth face coverings are recommended  
7 by scientific and medical experts to reduce the  
8 spread of COVID–19.

9 (b) AUDIENCE.—In carrying out the campaign under  
10 subsection (a), the Director shall ensure that public serv-  
11 ice announcements reach as many Americans as possible  
12 with scientifically accurate messages about cloth face cov-  
13 erings.

14 (c) LANGUAGE.—The Director shall ensure that pub-  
15 lic service announcements under this section are provided  
16 in at least 19 languages in addition to English, including  
17 the following:

18 (1) Spanish.

19 (2) Arabic.

20 (3) Cambodian.

21 (4) Chinese.

22 (5) Haitian Creole.

23 (6) French.

24 (7) Hindi.

25 (8) Italian.

1 (9) Japanese.

2 (10) Korean.

3 (11) Laotian.

4 (12) Russian.

5 (13) Tagalog.

6 (14) Urdu.

7 (15) Vietnamese.

8 (16) Greek.

9 (17) Polish.

10 (18) Thai.

11 (19) Portuguese.

12 (d) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—In carrying out the  
13 campaign under subsection (a), the Director may, subject  
14 to the availability of appropriations, award grants to, and  
15 enter into contracts with, public and private entities (in-  
16 cluding nonprofit organizations).

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
18 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated  
19 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2020 and  
20 2021, to remain available until expended.

21 **SEC. 5. CLOTH FACE COVERINGS FOR ALL.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
23 propriations, the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
24 (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall carry  
25 out a program to provide cloth face coverings to any

1 American who requests one free of charge by United  
2 States mail.

3 (b) REQUESTS.—In carrying out this section, the  
4 Secretary shall establish procedures allowing Americans to  
5 request up to three cloth face coverings per person in their  
6 household through the internet, by mail, or by phone (in-  
7 cluding text messaging).

8 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult  
9 with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and  
10 Prevention, the Director of the National Institutes of  
11 Health, and the heads of other agencies as appropriate  
12 regarding the design and selection of cloth face coverings  
13 to be provided under this section.

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
15 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated  
16 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2020 and  
17 2021, to remain available until expended.

18 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH ON**  
19 **CLOTH FACE COVERING EFFICACY.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-  
21 stitutes of Health (in this section referred to as the “Di-  
22 rector”) shall conduct or support research on the efficacy  
23 of cloth face coverings, face shields, ventilators, and other  
24 facial coverings to reduce the spread of COVID–19.

1 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Research under this section  
2 may include—

3 (1) research on the effect of wearing cloth face  
4 coverings on the spread of the virus that causes  
5 COVID–19;

6 (2) research on the situations for which cloth  
7 face coverings are scientifically indicated;

8 (3) research on the most effective materials or  
9 designs of cloth face coverings; and

10 (4) other topics as the Director determines ap-  
11 propriate.

12 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
13 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
14 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2022,  
15 to remain available until expended.

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