

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2126

To preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 14, 2025

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. OGLES, Mr. SELF, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. PERRY, Mr. CRANE, Mr. CLINE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. EZELL, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Ms. MACE, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. PALMER, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. MANN, Ms. BOEBERT, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. ONDER, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mrs. BICE, Mr. GUEST, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. HUNT, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. BURLISON, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Ms. MALOY, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. KNOTT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. STRONG, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. FRY, Ms. LETLOW, Mr. DAVIDSON, Ms. FOXX, Mr. HURD of Colorado, Mr. CLOUD, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. FALLON, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. COMER, Mr. BARRETT, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, and Mrs. MCCLAIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform

A BILL

To preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Fair and Open Com-
5 petition Act of 2025” or the “FOCA Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 It is the purpose of this Act to—

8 (1) promote and ensure open competition on
9 Federal and federally funded or assisted construc-
10 tion projects;

11 (2) maintain Federal Government neutrality to-
12 wards the labor relations of Federal Government
13 contractors on Federal and federally funded or as-
14 sisted construction projects;

15 (3) reduce construction costs to the Federal
16 Government and to the taxpayers;

17 (4) expand job opportunities, especially for
18 small and disadvantaged businesses; and

19 (5) prevent discrimination against Federal Gov-
20 ernment contractors or their employees based upon
21 labor affiliation or the lack thereof, thereby pro-

1 moting the economical, nondiscriminatory, and effi-
2 cient administration and completion of Federal and
3 federally funded or assisted construction projects.

4 **SEC. 3. PRESERVATION OF OPEN COMPETITION AND FED-**
5 **ERAL GOVERNMENT NEUTRALITY.**

6 (a) PROHIBITION.—

7 (1) GENERAL RULE.—The head of each execu-
8 tive agency that awards or enters into any construc-
9 tion contract or that obligates funds pursuant to
10 such a contract, shall ensure that the agency, and
11 any construction manager acting on behalf of the
12 Federal Government with respect to such contract,
13 in its bid specifications, project agreements, or other
14 controlling documents does not—

15 (A) require or prohibit a bidder, offeror,
16 contractor, or subcontractor from entering into,
17 or adhering to, agreements with 1 or more
18 labor organizations, with respect to that con-
19 struction project or another related construction
20 project; or

21 (B) discriminate against or give preference
22 to a bidder, offeror, contractor, or subcon-
23 tractor because such bidder, offeror, contractor,
24 or subcontractor—

1 (i) becomes a signatory, or otherwise
2 adheres to, an agreement with 1 or more
3 labor organizations with respect to that
4 construction project or another related
5 construction project; or

6 (ii) refuses to become a signatory, or
7 otherwise adhere to, an agreement with 1
8 or more labor organizations with respect to
9 that construction project or another related
10 construction project.

11 (2) APPLICATION OF PROHIBITION.—This sub-
12 section shall apply with respect to—

13 (A) contracts awarded on or after the date
14 of the enactment of this Act; and

15 (B) subcontracts awarded under such con-
16 tracts.

17 (3) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in
18 paragraph (1) may be construed to prohibit a con-
19 tractor or subcontractor from voluntarily entering
20 into an agreement described in such paragraph.

21 (4) FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Not
22 later than 60 days after the date of the enactment
23 of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation shall
24 be revised to implement the provisions of this sub-
25 section.

1 (b) RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS AND OTHER ASSIST-
2 ANCE.—The head of each executive agency that awards
3 grants, provides financial assistance, or enters into cooper-
4 ative agreements for construction projects after the date
5 of the enactment of this Act shall ensure that—

6 (1) the bid specifications, project agreements,
7 or other controlling documents for such construction
8 projects of a recipient of a grant or financial assist-
9 ance, or by the parties to a cooperative agreement,
10 do not contain any of the requirements or prohibi-
11 tions described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of sub-
12 section (a)(1); or

13 (2) the bid specifications, project agreements,
14 or other controlling documents for such construction
15 projects of a construction manager acting on behalf
16 of a recipient or party described in paragraph (1) do
17 not contain any of the requirements or prohibitions
18 described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection
19 (a)(1).

20 (c) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If an executive agency,
21 a recipient of a grant or financial assistance from an exec-
22 utive agency, a party to a cooperative agreement with an
23 executive agency, or a construction manager acting on be-
24 half of such an agency, recipient, or party, fails to comply
25 with subsection (a) or (b), the head of the executive agency

1 awarding the contract, grant, or assistance, or entering
2 into the agreement involved, shall take such action, con-
3 sistent with the law, as the head of such agency deter-
4 mines to be appropriate.

5 (d) EXEMPTIONS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The head of an executive
7 agency may exempt a particular project, contract,
8 subcontract, grant, or cooperative agreement from
9 the requirements of 1 or more of the provisions of
10 subsections (a) and (b) if the head of such agency
11 determines that special circumstances exist that re-
12 quire an exemption in order to avert an imminent
13 threat to public health or safety or to serve the na-
14 tional security.

15 (2) SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES.—For purposes
16 of paragraph (1), a finding of special circumstances
17 may not be based on the possibility or existence of
18 a labor dispute concerning contractors or sub-
19 contractors that are nonsignatories to, or that other-
20 wise do not adhere to, agreements with 1 or more
21 labor organizations, or labor disputes concerning em-
22 ployees on the project who are not members of, or
23 affiliated with, a labor organization.

24 (3) ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN
25 PROJECTS.—The head of an executive agency, upon

1 application of an awarding authority, a recipient of
2 grants or financial assistance, a party to a coopera-
3 tive agreement, or a construction manager acting on
4 behalf of any of such entities, may exempt a par-
5 ticular project from the requirements of any or all
6 of the provisions of subsection (a) or (b), if the head
7 of such agency finds—

8 (A) that the awarding authority, recipient
9 of grants or financial assistance, party to a co-
10 operative agreement, or construction manager
11 acting on behalf of any of such entities had
12 issued or was a party to, as of the date of the
13 enactment of this Act, bid specifications, project
14 agreements, agreements with 1 or more labor
15 organizations, or other controlling documents
16 with respect to that particular project, which
17 contained any of the requirements or prohibi-
18 tions set forth in subsection (a)(1); and

19 (B) that 1 or more construction contracts
20 subject to such requirements or prohibitions
21 had been awarded as of the date of the enact-
22 ment of this Act.

23 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 (1) CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT.—The term
25 “construction contract” means any contract for the

1 construction, rehabilitation, alteration, conversion,
2 extension, or repair of buildings, highways, or other
3 improvements to real property.

4 (2) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive
5 agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive
6 agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States
7 Code, except that such term does not include the
8 Government Accountability Office.

9 (3) LABOR ORGANIZATION.—The term “labor
10 organization” has the meaning given such term in
11 section 701 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
12 U.S.C. 2000e).

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