

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4912

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2025

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SIMON, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. TONKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure, 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; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
3 “Help America Run Act”.

4 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Everyday Americans experience barriers to
6 entry before they can consider running for office to
7 serve their communities.

8 (2) Current law states that campaign funds
9 cannot be spent on everyday expenses that would
10 exist whether or not a candidate were running for
11 office, like rent and food. While the law seems neu-
12 tral, its actual effect is to privilege the independently
13 wealthy who want to run, because given the de-
14 mands of running for office, candidates who must
15 work to pay for child care or to afford health insur-
16 ance are effectively being left out of the process,
17 even if they have sufficient support to mount a via-
18 ble campaign.

19 (3) Thus current practice favors those prospec-
20 tive candidates who do not need to rely on a regular
21 paycheck to make ends meet. The consequence is
22 that everyday Americans who have firsthand knowl-
23 edge of the importance of stable child care, a safety
24 net, or great public schools are less likely to get a
25 seat at the table. This governance by the few is anti-
26 thetical to the democratic experiment, but most im-

1 portantly, when lawmakers do not share the con-
2 cerns of everyday Americans, their policies reflect
3 that.

4 (4) These circumstances have contributed to a
5 Congress that does not always reflect everyday
6 Americans. The New York Times reported in 2019
7 that fewer than 5 percent of representatives cite
8 blue-collar or service jobs in their biographies. A
9 2015 survey by the Center for Responsive Politics
10 showed that the median net worth of lawmakers was
11 just over \$1 million in 2013, or 18 times the wealth
12 of the typical American household.

13 (5) These circumstances have also contributed
14 to a governing body that does not reflect the Nation
15 it serves. For instance, women are 51 percent of the
16 American population. Yet even with a record number
17 of women serving in the One Hundred Eighteenth
18 Congress, the Pew Research Center notes that more
19 than two out of three Members of this Congress are
20 male. The Center for American Women And Politics
21 found that one-third of women legislators surveyed
22 had been actively discouraged from running for of-
23 fice, often by political professionals. This type of dis-
24 couragement, combined with the burdens of child
25 care that still fall disproportionately on American

1 women, particularly disadvantages working mothers.
2 These barriers may explain why only 12 women in
3 history have given birth while serving in Congress,
4 in spite of the prevalence of working parents in
5 other professions. Yet working mothers and fathers
6 are best positioned to create policy that reflects the
7 lived experience of most Americans.

8 (6) Working mothers, those caring for their el-
9 derly parents, and young professionals who rely on
10 their jobs for health insurance should have the free-
11 dom to run to serve the people of the United States.
12 Their networks and net worth are simply not the
13 best indicators of their strength as prospective pub-
14 lic servants. In fact, helping ordinary Americans to
15 run may create better policy for all Americans.

16 (c) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to ensure
17 that all Americans who are otherwise qualified to serve
18 this Nation are able to run for office, regardless of their
19 economic status. By expanding permissible uses of cam-
20 paign funds and providing modest assurance that testing
21 a run for office will not cost one's livelihood, the Help
22 America Run Act will facilitate the candidacy of represent-
23 atives who more accurately reflect the experiences, chal-
24 lenges, and ideals of everyday Americans.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE AND**
2 **OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AU-**
3 **THORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.**

4 (a) PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED CAM-
5 PAIGN EXPENDITURE.—Section 313 of the Federal Elec-
6 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114) is amended
7 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

8 “(d) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE
9 AND OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED
10 CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.—

11 “(1) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.—For pur-
12 poses of subsection (a), the payment by an author-
13 ized committee of a candidate for any of the per-
14 sonal use services described in paragraph (2) shall
15 be treated as an authorized expenditure if the serv-
16 ices are necessary to enable the participation of the
17 candidate in campaign-connected activities or to en-
18 able the candidate to carry out duties as a holder of
19 Federal office.

20 “(2) PERSONAL USE SERVICES DESCRIBED.—

21 “(A) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—Except as
22 provided in subparagraph (B), the personal use
23 services described in this paragraph are as fol-
24 lows:

25 “(i) Child care services.

26 “(ii) Elder care services.

1 “(iii) Services similar to the services
2 described in subparagraph (A) or subpara-
3 graph (B) which are provided on behalf of
4 any dependent who is a qualifying relative
5 under section 152 of the Internal Revenue
6 Code of 1986.

7 “(iv) Health insurance premiums.

8 “(B) EXCEPTION FOR CANDIDATES HOLD-
9 ING FEDERAL OFFICE.—In the case of a can-
10 didate who holds Federal office, the personal
11 use services described in this paragraph do not
12 include health insurance premiums.”.

13 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
14 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment
15 of this Act.

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