

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8300

To prohibit the use of taxpayer funds for settlements of workplace misconduct claims involving Members of Congress or senior staff of the House of Representatives or the Senate, require personal financial accountability, ensure transparency of past settlements while protecting victims, and mandate referral of criminal allegations to the Department of Justice, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 15, 2026

Mr. GOSAR (for himself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. FINE, and Mrs. LUNA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To prohibit the use of taxpayer funds for settlements of workplace misconduct claims involving Members of Congress or senior staff of the House of Representatives or the Senate, require personal financial accountability, ensure transparency of past settlements while protecting victims, and mandate referral of criminal allegations to the Department of Justice, 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 “Stopping Wasteful Al-  
3 lowances for Lawmaker Wrongdoing and Ensuring Legal  
4 Liability Act” or the “Swalwell Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS IN CON-**  
6 **NECTION WITH WORKPLACE MISCONDUCT.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—No funds appropriated or other-  
8 wise made available from the U.S. Treasury may be used  
9 to pay any settlement, award, or judgment arising from  
10 a claim of workplace misconduct by a Member of Congress  
11 or a senior staff of the House of Representatives or Sen-  
12 ate.

13       (b) WORKPLACE MISCONDUCT DEFINED.—For pur-  
14 poses of this section, the term “workplace misconduct” in-  
15 cludes claims of discrimination, harassment, retaliation, or  
16 other violations of employment or civil rights laws.

17 **SEC. 3. PERSONAL LIABILITY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**  
18 **OR A SENIOR STAFF OF THE HOUSE OF REP-**  
19 **RESENTATIVES OR SENATE.**

20       (a) IN GENERAL.—Any Member of Congress or a  
21 senior staff of the House of Representatives or Senate  
22 found liable for, or entering into a settlement resolving,  
23 a workplace misconduct claim shall be personally respon-  
24 sible for the full amount of such settlement or award.

25       (b) PROHIBITIONS WITH RESPECT TO REIMBURSE-  
26 MENT.—No Member of Congress or a senior staff of the

1 House of Representatives or Senate may be reimbursed,  
2 directly or indirectly—

3 (1) with Federal funds for any payment made  
4 under subsection (a); or

5 (2) with campaign funds for any payment made  
6 under subsection (a).

7 (c) CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—Members of  
8 Congress or a senior staff of the House of Representatives  
9 or Senate shall certify, under penalty of perjury, that no  
10 public funds were used in connection with such payments  
11 under subsection (a).

12 **SEC. 4. MANDATORY DISCLOSURE OF SETTLEMENTS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Clerk of the House of Rep-  
14 resentatives and the Secretary of the Senate shall main-  
15 tain and publish a publicly accessible, searchable database  
16 containing the following:

17 (1) The name of any Member of Congress or a  
18 senior staff of the House of Representatives or Sen-  
19 ate who has settled or been found liable for a work-  
20 place misconduct claim.

21 (2) The total amount of any settlement or  
22 award.

23 (3) The date of resolution.

24 (4) The nature of the claim, described in gen-  
25 eral terms.

1 (b) PROHIBITION.—The database under subsection  
2 (a) shall not include any personally identifiable informa-  
3 tion of victims or complainants.

4 (c) DISCLOSURE DEADLINE.—Disclosures shall be  
5 made not later than 30 days after the date of the resolu-  
6 tion of a claim.

7 **SEC. 5. RETROACTIVE DISCLOSURE OF PAST SETTLE-**  
8 **MENTS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the  
10 date of the enactment of this Act, the Clerk of the House  
11 and Secretary of the Senate shall publish all settlements  
12 and awards paid using public funds since January 1,  
13 1995, relating to workplace misconduct claims involving  
14 Members of Congress or a senior staff of the House of  
15 Representatives or Senate.

16 (b) PRIVACY PROTECTION REQUIREMENT.—Disclo-  
17 sures under subsection (a) shall comply with the privacy  
18 protections set forth in section 4(b).

19 **SEC. 6. REFERRAL OF CRIMINAL ALLEGATIONS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any allegation of conduct by a  
21 Member of Congress or a senior staff of the House of Rep-  
22 resentatives or Senate that may constitute a violation of  
23 Federal criminal law shall be promptly referred to the De-  
24 partment of Justice for review.

1 (b) SOURCE OF REFERRAL.—A referral under sub-  
2 section (a) shall be made by the Office of Congressional  
3 Workplace Rights, the Committee on Ethics of the House  
4 of Representatives, or the Select Committee on Ethics of  
5 the Senate, as applicable.

6 (c) RESTRICTIONS ON PREVENTING OR DELAYING  
7 REFERRAL.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—No settlement agreement,  
9 nondisclosure agreement, or internal congressional  
10 process may prevent or delay a referral under sub-  
11 section (a).

12 (2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—The existence of  
13 a referral under this section shall not be contingent  
14 upon the consent of the complainant.

15 **SEC. 7. ENFORCEMENT AND PENALTIES.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any Member of Congress or a  
17 senior staff of the House of Representatives or Senate who  
18 violates this Act shall be subject to—

19 (1) a civil penalty that equals not less than 200  
20 percent of the amount improperly paid; and

21 (2) referral to the appropriate Ethics Com-  
22 mittee for further disciplinary action.

23 (b) CIVIL ACTION.—The Attorney General is author-  
24 ized to bring a civil action to enforce compliance with this  
25 Act.

1 **SEC. 8. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act—

3 (1) the term “Member of Congress” includes a  
4 Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the Congress;  
5 and

6 (2) the term “senior staff of the House of Rep-  
7 resentatives or Senate” means any individual who,  
8 at the time a violation occurred, was required to file  
9 a report under subchapter I of chapter 131 of title  
10 5, United States Code.

11 **SEC. 9. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

12 Nothing in this Act may be construed to—

13 (1) limit the rights of victims to pursue claims  
14 or receive compensation;

15 (2) require the disclosure of a victim’s identity,  
16 including sex and personally identifiable information,  
17 without their express written consent; or

18 (3) prevent the House of Representatives or the  
19 Senate from taking such actions as may be nec-  
20 essary to protect the identities of victims.

21 **SEC. 10. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

22 This Act shall take effect on the date of the enact-  
23 ment of this Act and shall apply to any claim pending on  
24 or after such date.

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