

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9961

To prohibit the use of campaign contributions or legal defense funds to pay settlements or penalties related to sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment claims, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2026

Mr. KHANNA (for himself and Mrs. LUNA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To prohibit the use of campaign contributions or legal defense funds to pay settlements or penalties related to sexual assault, sexual abuse, and sexual harassment claims, 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 “No Campaign Funded
5 Cover-Ups Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. LIMITATIONS ON USE OF CERTAIN CONTRIBUTIONS**
2 **WITH RESPECT TO SEXUAL ASSAULT AND**
3 **SEXUAL HARASSMENT CLAIMS.**

4 (a) PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OF LEGAL FEES.—

5 (1) PROHIBITION.—A covered individual may
6 not use funds from a legal expense fund established
7 for the benefit of the covered individual or contribu-
8 tions to an authorized committee of the individual to
9 pay a legal fee related to defending the covered indi-
10 vidual against a claim of sexual assault, sexual
11 abuse, or sexual harassment.

12 (2) REIMBURSEMENT PERMITTED IF HELD NOT
13 LIABLE.—If a covered individual is held not liable
14 for such a claim, the covered individual may be re-
15 imbursed from such fund or committee in an
16 amount equal to the amount of such legal fees paid
17 by the covered individual.

18 (b) PROHIBITION ON PAYMENT OF SETTLEMENTS
19 AND JUDGMENTS.—

20 (1) PROHIBITION ON USE OF CAMPAIGN CON-
21 TRIBUTIONS.—Section 313(b) of the Federal Elec-
22 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114(b)) is
23 amended by adding at the end the following:

24 “(3) USE FOR CERTAIN LEGAL FEES.—For the
25 purposes of paragraph (1), a contribution or dona-
26 tion shall be considered to be converted to personal

1 use if the contribution or amount is used to pay a
 2 settlement or court-ordered judgment related to a
 3 claim of sexual assault, sexual abuse, or sexual har-
 4 assment against the candidate or individual.”.

5 (2) PROHIBITION ON USE OF LEGAL EXPENSE
 6 FUNDS.—A contribution or other payment to a legal
 7 expense fund established for the benefit of a covered
 8 individual may not be used to pay a settlement or
 9 court-ordered judgment related to a claim of sexual
 10 assault, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment against
 11 the candidate or individual.

12 (c) PROHIBITION ON PAYMENTS FOR CERTAIN PRI-
 13 VATE INVESTIGATORS AND RESEARCH.—

14 (1) PROHIBITION ON USE OF CAMPAIGN CON-
 15 TRIBUTIONS.—Section 313(b) of the Federal Elec-
 16 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114(b)),
 17 as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by
 18 adding at the end the following:

19 “(4) USE FOR PRIVATE INVESTIGATORS AND
 20 OPPOSITION RESEARCH.—For the purposes of para-
 21 graph (1), a contribution or donation shall be con-
 22 sidered to be converted to personal use if the con-
 23 tribution or amount is used to pay—

24 “(A) a private investigator to investigate a
 25 person who has brought a claim of sexual as-

1 sault, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment
2 against the candidate or individual; or

3 “(B) for research for the purpose of dis-
4 covering embarrassing or negative information
5 about a person who has brought a claim of sex-
6 ual assault, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment
7 against the candidate or individual.”.

8 (2) PROHIBITION ON USE OF LEGAL EX-
9 PENSES.—A contribution or other payment to a
10 legal expense fund established for the benefit of a
11 covered individual may not be used to pay—

12 (A) a private investigator to investigate a
13 person who has brought a claim of sexual as-
14 sault, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment
15 against the candidate or individual; or

16 (B) for research for the purpose of discov-
17 ering embarrassing or negative information
18 about a person who has brought a claim of sex-
19 ual assault, sexual abuse, or sexual harassment
20 against the candidate or individual.

21 (d) RETROACTIVE APPLICATION.—The provisions of
22 this section shall apply retroactively to any payment occur-
23 ring after the date that is 2 years prior to the date of
24 the enactment of this Act.

25 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) AUTHORIZED COMMITTEE; CANDIDATE;
2 CONTRIBUTION; FEDERAL OFFICE.—In this section,
3 the terms “authorized committee”, “candidate”,
4 “contribution”, and “Federal office” have the mean-
5 ings given such terms in section 301 of the Federal
6 Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101).

7 (2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered
8 individual” means a candidate for Federal office or
9 an individual who holds a Federal office.

10 **SEC. 3. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR LEGAL EX-**
11 **PENSES.**

12 Section 304(b) of the Federal Election Campaign Act
13 of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30104(b)) is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the
15 end;

16 (2) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at
17 the end and inserting “; and”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(9) for any disbursement for a legal fee, legal
20 service, or other legal expense—

21 “(A) the name of the individual or entity
22 receiving the disbursement;

23 “(B) the date and amount of the disburse-
24 ment;

1 “(C) a brief description of the general na-
2 ture and purpose of the legal matter for which
3 the disbursement was made;

4 “(D) whether the disbursement was for
5 legal representation, reimbursement of legal ex-
6 penses, settlement of a claim, satisfaction of a
7 judgment, or another specified purpose; and

8 “(E) the name of any person whose legal
9 expenses were paid or reimbursed through the
10 disbursement, if such person is not the indi-
11 vidual or entity receiving the disbursement.”.

○