

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9981

To prohibit reductions in force or other staffing reductions for certain Centers of Disease Control and Prevention divisions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2026

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To prohibit reductions in force or other staffing reductions for certain Centers of Disease Control and Prevention divisions, 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 “Foodborne Illness
5 Rapid Response Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON REDUCTIONS IN FORCE OR**
2 **OTHER STAFFING REDUCTIONS FOR CER-**
3 **TAIN CENTERS OF DISEASE CONTROL AND**
4 **PREVENTION DIVISIONS.**

5 Section 205 of the Food Safety Modernization Act
6 (21 U.S.C. 2224) is amended by adding at the end the
7 following:

8 “(d) PROHIBITION ON REDUCTIONS IN FORCE OR
9 OTHER STAFFING REDUCTIONS.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not,
11 during the 1-year period following a multi-state or
12 nationally significant foodborne illness outbreak,
13 carry out a covered staffing reduction effort with re-
14 spect to the divisions of the Centers for Disease
15 Control and Prevention responsible for surveillance
16 of foodborne diseases and foodborne illness outbreak
17 response.

18 “(2) COVERED STAFFING REDUCTION EF-
19 FORT.—In this subsection, the term ‘staffing reduc-
20 tion effort’ means any agency action (including a re-
21 duction in force conducted pursuant to subchapter I
22 of chapter 35 of title 5, United States Code, or any
23 agency reorganization) that provides for the removal
24 of 1 percent or more of the total number of employ-
25 ees at each of the divisions of the Centers for Dis-
26 ease Control and Prevention responsible for surveil-

- 1 lance of foodborne diseases and foodborne illness
- 2 outbreak response within a 60-day period.”.

