

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4995

To provide for the protection of agricultural workers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 15, 2026

Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. SANDERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for the protection of agricultural workers, 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 “Agricultural Worker
5 Justice Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—FAIR USDA PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING

Sec. 101. Definitions.

Sec. 102. Food worker pay increase.

- Sec. 103. Prohibition on stock buybacks while receiving USDA funds.
- Sec. 104. Promotion of economic security and workplace accountability.
- Sec. 105. Waiver to purchase foreign commodities or products.
- Sec. 106. Authorization of local food purchase assistance cooperative agreement program.
- Sec. 107. Report regarding grant recipients.

TITLE II—PROTECTING AMERICA’S MEATPACKING WORKERS

- Sec. 201. Findings.
- Sec. 202. Definitions.

Subtitle A—Reforms to Protect Meat and Poultry Processing Workers

PART I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

- Sec. 211. Rule on increased line speeds at meat and poultry establishments.

PART II—FAIR ATTENDANCE POLICIES

- Sec. 221. Definitions.
- Sec. 222. Requirements for employers relating to no fault attendance policies or attendance systems.
- Sec. 223. Remedies and enforcement.
- Sec. 224. Rulemaking.
- Sec. 225. Relationship to other laws.

PART III—OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION REFORMS

- Sec. 231. Definitions.
- Sec. 232. Ensuring compliance with employee rights to use toilet facilities at covered establishments.
- Sec. 233. Occupational safety and health standards to protect employees in covered establishments.
- Sec. 234. Permanent regional emphasis inspection program; expanding inspections.
- Sec. 235. Representatives during physical inspections.
- Sec. 236. Enhanced protections from retaliation.
- Sec. 237. Regulations to restore a column on required records of work-related musculoskeletal disorders.
- Sec. 238. Funding for additional OSHA inspectors.
- Sec. 239. OSHA reporting.
- Sec. 240. Private right of action.
- Sec. 241. Injunction proceedings.

PART IV—SAVINGS PROVISION

- Sec. 251. Savings provision.

Subtitle B—GAO Reports

- Sec. 261. Review and report on racial and ethnic disparities in meat and poultry processing.

1 **TITLE I—FAIR USDA PROCUREMENT AND CONTRACTING**
2

3 **SEC. 101. DEFINITIONS.**

4 In this title:

5 (1) MEAT.—The term “meat” means meat
6 (within the meaning of the Federal Meat Inspection
7 Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.)).

8 (2) MEAT FOOD PRODUCT.—The term “meat
9 food product” has the meaning given the term in
10 section 1 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21
11 U.S.C. 601).

12 (3) POULTRY; POULTRY PRODUCT.—The terms
13 “poultry” and “poultry product” have the meanings
14 given those terms in section 4 of the Poultry Prod-
15 ucts Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 453).

16 (4) PROCESSED FOOD.—The term “processed
17 food” has the meaning given the term in section 201
18 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21
19 U.S.C. 321).

20 **SEC. 102. FOOD WORKER PAY INCREASE.**

21 (a) PREVAILING RATE.—The Secretary of Agri-
22 culture may not purchase any meat, meat food product,
23 poultry, poultry product, or processed food produced by
24 workers in the United States who are compensated at a

1 rate lower than the prevailing rate for wages and fringe
2 benefits for such workers in their locality.

3 (b) PREVAILING RATE DETERMINATION.—The Sec-
4 retary of Labor shall determine the prevailing rates de-
5 scribed in subsection (a) and, in determining such rates,
6 shall take into account any applicable existing collective
7 bargaining agreements in the locality.

8 (c) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT SUPREM-
9 ACY.—A prevailing rate established pursuant to this sec-
10 tion shall not supersede the wages and benefits of a worker
11 agreed to in a collective bargaining agreement.

12 **SEC. 103. PROHIBITION ON STOCK BUYBACKS WHILE RE-**
13 **CEIVING USDA FUNDS.**

14 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 (1) EQUITY SECURITY; EXCHANGE; ISSUER.—
16 The terms “equity security”, “exchange”, and
17 “issuer” have the meanings given the terms in sec-
18 tion 3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15
19 U.S.C. 78c).

20 (2) NATIONAL SECURITY EXCHANGE.—The
21 term “national securities exchange” means an ex-
22 change registered under section 6 of the Securities
23 Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78f).

24 (b) PROHIBITIONS.—Notwithstanding any other pro-
25 vision of law, during any period that an agricultural issuer

1 has a contract or receives funding from the Department
 2 of Agriculture, the agricultural issuer may not—

3 (1) purchase an equity security of the issuer or
 4 any parent company of the issuer on a national se-
 5 curities exchange; or

6 (2) pay dividends or other capital distributions
 7 on an equity security of the issuer.

8 **SEC. 104. PROMOTION OF ECONOMIC SECURITY AND WORK-**
 9 **PLACE ACCOUNTABILITY.**

10 (a) **REQUIRED DISCLOSURES.**—The Secretary of Ag-
 11 riculture shall require any entity that enters into a con-
 12 tract with the Department of Agriculture on or after the
 13 date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this
 14 Act to disclose to the Secretary of Labor, on an annual
 15 basis and to the best of the knowledge of the entity, wheth-
 16 er, within the preceding 3-year period, any administrative
 17 merits determination, arbitral award or decision, or civil
 18 judgment, as defined in regulations issued by the Sec-
 19 retary of Labor, has been issued against the entity, or any
 20 subcontractor of the entity, for violations of any of the
 21 following (including, as applicable, any regulations issued
 22 under any of the following):

23 (1) The Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29
 24 U.S.C. 201 et seq.).

1 (2) The Occupational Safety and Health Act of
2 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et seq.).

3 (3) The National Labor Relations Act (29
4 U.S.C. 151 et seq.).

5 (4) Subchapter IV of chapter 31 of title 40,
6 United States Code (commonly known as the
7 “Davis-Bacon Act”).

8 (5) Chapter 67 of title 41, United States Code
9 (commonly known as the “Service Contract Act”).

10 (6) Executive Order 11246 (42 U.S.C. 2000e
11 note; relating to equal employment opportunity), as
12 in effect on January 19, 2025.

13 (7) Section 503 of the Rehabilitation Act of
14 1973 (29 U.S.C. 793).

15 (8) Section 4212 of title 38, United States
16 Code.

17 (9) The Family and Medical Leave Act of 1993
18 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.).

19 (10) Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
20 (42 U.S.C. 2000e et seq.).

21 (11) Title I of the Americans with Disabilities
22 Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12111 et seq.).

23 (12) The Age Discrimination in Employment
24 Act of 1967 (29 U.S.C. 621 et seq.).

1 (13) Executive Order 13658 (79 Fed. Reg.
2 9851; relating to establishing a minimum wage for
3 contractors).

4 (14) The Railway Labor Act (45 U.S.C. 151 et
5 seq.).

6 (15) The Pregnant Workers Fairness Act (42
7 U.S.C. 2000gg et seq.).

8 (16) Section 4714 of title 41, United States
9 Code.

10 (17) Part 170 of title 40, Code of Federal Reg-
11 ulations (regarding the Worker Protection Stand-
12 ard), as in effect on January 19, 2025.

13 (18) Section 218 of the Immigration and Na-
14 tionality Act (8 U.S.C. 1188) relating to protections
15 for H-2A workers.

16 (19) Section 274B of such Act (8 U.S.C.
17 1324b).

18 (20) The Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural
19 Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

20 (21) Any applicable State or local labor or em-
21 ployment law, as defined in regulations issued by the
22 Secretary of Labor.

23 (b) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of Labor shall
24 be available, as appropriate and in coordination as de-
25 scribed in subsection (e), for consultation with an entity

1 described in subsection (a) to assist the entity in evalu-
2 ating the information on labor compliance submitted to
3 the entity by a subcontractor pursuant to such subsection.

4 (c) CORRECTIVE MEASURES.—On an annual basis,
5 the Secretary of Labor—

6 (1) shall provide an entity that makes a disclo-
7 sure pursuant to subsection (a) an opportunity to re-
8 port any steps taken by the entity, or any subcon-
9 tractor of the entity, to correct violations of or im-
10 prove compliance with the laws, including Executive
11 orders, listed in such subsection, including any
12 agreements entered into with an enforcement agen-
13 cy; and

14 (2) may negotiate with such entity corrective
15 measures that the entity or any subcontractor of the
16 entity may take in order to avoid having the entity
17 placed on the list under subsection (d).

18 (d) LIST OF INELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—For each calendar year be-
20 ginning with the first calendar year that begins after
21 the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment
22 of this Act, the Secretary of Labor, in coordination
23 as described in subsection (e), shall prepare, and
24 submit to the Secretary of Agriculture, a list of each

1 entity that shall be ineligible for a contract with the
2 Department of Agriculture for that year based on—

3 (A) serious, repeated, or pervasive viola-
4 tions of the laws, including Executive orders,
5 listed under subsection (a) committed by the
6 entity or any subcontractor of the entity; or

7 (B) the failure of such entity, or any sub-
8 contractor of such entity, to complete any cor-
9 rective measure negotiated under subsection (c).

10 (2) INELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of Agri-
11 culture shall not—

12 (A) solicit a contract from any entity on
13 the list under paragraph (1) that is in effect for
14 a year for that year or any of the subsequent
15 4 years; and

16 (B) conduct an inspection pursuant to the
17 Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et
18 seq.) or the Poultry Products Inspection Act
19 (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), as applicable, of any
20 facility owned or controlled by an entity on the
21 list under paragraph (1) that is in effect for a
22 year for that year or for any of the subsequent
23 4 years.

24 (e) COORDINATION.—In providing the consultation
25 described in subsection (b) and preparing the list under

1 subsection (d), the Secretary of Labor shall coordinate,
2 as appropriate, with the National Labor Relations Board,
3 the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, the En-
4 vironmental Protection Agency, and any other relevant
5 Federal agency as well as States and local governments.

6 (f) CRIMINAL PENALTY FOR FAILURE TO REPORT.—

7 (1) OFFENSE.—It shall be unlawful for an enti-
8 ty to knowingly fail to make a disclosure required
9 under subsection (a).

10 (2) PENALTY.—

11 (A) IN GENERAL.—A violation of para-
12 graph (1) shall be treated as a violation of sec-
13 tion 1031(a) of title 18, United States Code.

14 (B) GROSS LOSS TO GOVERNMENT; GROSS
15 GAIN TO DEFENDANT.—For purposes of apply-
16 ing section 1031 of title 18, United States
17 Code, to a violation of paragraph (1) of this
18 subsection, the amount that the Department of
19 Agriculture pays an entity that violates such
20 paragraph (1) under a contract described in
21 subsection (a) of this section shall be treated as
22 the gross loss to the Government or the gross
23 gain to the defendant.

24 (g) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—For each cal-
25 endar year beginning with the first calendar year that be-

1 gins after the date that is 2 years after the date of enact-
 2 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall submit
 3 a report to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and
 4 Forestry of the Senate and the Committee on Agriculture
 5 of the House of Representatives that includes—

6 (1) the number of entities on the list under sub-
 7 section (d) for the year of the report;

8 (2) the number of entities that agreed to take
 9 corrective measures under subsection (c) for such
 10 year;

11 (3) the amount of the applicable contracts for
 12 the entities described in paragraph (1) or (2); and

13 (4) performance indicators and measures, as
 14 determined by the Secretary of Agriculture, assess-
 15 ing the effectiveness of the implementation by the
 16 Secretary of Agriculture of this section for such
 17 year.

18 **SEC. 105. WAIVER TO PURCHASE FOREIGN COMMODITIES**

19 **OR PRODUCTS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 12(n)(2) of the Richard
 21 B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C.
 22 1760(n)(2)) is amended—

23 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “subpara-
 24 graph (B)” and inserting “subparagraphs (B) and
 25 (C)”;

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking “for the school lunch program under this Act or the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).” and inserting the following: “for—

“(I) the school lunch program under this Act, including any snacks served under that program;

“(II) the special milk program under section 3 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1772); or

“(III) the school breakfast program under section 4 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C. 1773).”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) WAIVER.—

“(i) WAIVER REQUEST.—Except as provided in clause (ii), in order to purchase foreign commodities or products, a school food authority shall request from the Secretary a waiver of subparagraph (A).

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—A school food authority may purchase foreign commodities or products without a waiver under clause

(i) if the commodities or products are not—

“(I) produced domestically; or

“(II) available domestically.

“(iii) REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may not provide a waiver to purchase foreign commodities or products under clause (i) unless—

“(I) the commodities or products—

“(aa) are not produced domestically in sufficient amounts or of satisfactory quality; and

“(bb) if purchased domestically, would be significantly higher in price than such foreign commodities or products; and

“(II) the school enters into an agreement under clause (iv).

“(iv) AGREEMENT.—The Secretary may not provide a waiver under clause (i) unless the school food authority requesting the waiver agrees—

“(I) not later than 30 days after receiving the waiver, to make the

1 waiver publicly available on the
 2 website of the school food authority;
 3 and

4 “(II) not less than once each
 5 school year, to email a notification of
 6 all waivers to parents or guardians of
 7 students who will be served the for-
 8 eign commodity or product purchased
 9 pursuant to any waivers.”.

10 (b) DEFINITION OF FOREIGN COMMODITY.—Section
 11 12(n) of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch
 12 Act (42 U.S.C. 1760(n)) is amended by striking para-
 13 graph (1) and inserting the following:

14 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

15 “(A) DOMESTIC COMMODITY OR PROD-
 16 UCT.—The term ‘domestic commodity or prod-
 17 uct’ means—

18 “(i) an agricultural commodity that is
 19 produced in the United States; and

20 “(ii) a food product that is processed
 21 in the United States substantially using
 22 agricultural commodities that are produced
 23 in the United States.

24 “(B) FOREIGN COMMODITY OR PROD-
 25 UCT.—The term ‘foreign commodity or product’

1 means a commodity or product other than a do-
 2 mestic commodity or product.”.

3 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 12(n) of
 4 the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42
 5 U.S.C. 1760(n)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “Paragraph
 7 (2)(A)” and inserting “Subparagraphs (A) and (C)
 8 of paragraph (2)”; and

9 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking “Paragraph
 10 (2)(A)” and inserting “Subparagraphs (A) and (C)
 11 of paragraph (2)”.

12 (d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
 13 tion or the amendments made by this section affects the
 14 requirements under section 4207 of the Agriculture Im-
 15 provement Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 1760 note; Public Law
 16 115–334).

17 **SEC. 106. AUTHORIZATION OF LOCAL FOOD PURCHASE AS-**
 18 **SISTANCE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT PRO-**
 19 **GRAM.**

20 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 21 the local food purchase assistance cooperative agreement
 22 program established pursuant to section 1001 of the
 23 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (7 U.S.C. 7501 note;
 24 Public Law 117–2) \$400,000,000 for fiscal year 2026 and
 25 each fiscal year thereafter.

1 **SEC. 107. REPORT REGARDING GRANT RECIPIENTS.**

2 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
 3 of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Agri-
 4 culture shall submit to Congress and make publicly avail-
 5 able on the website of the Department of Agriculture an
 6 easily navigable report that, with respect to the preceding
 7 year, specifies each organization, farm, individual, or other
 8 entity that received funding (including through a contract,
 9 subcontract, subsidy, loan, or grant) from the Secretary
 10 of Agriculture during that year.

11 **TITLE II—PROTECTING AMER-**
 12 **ICA’S MEATPACKING WORK-**
 13 **ERS**

14 **SEC. 201. FINDINGS.**

15 Congress finds that—

16 (1) meat and poultry slaughter and processing
 17 is a particularly dangerous occupation, with meat
 18 and poultry processing workers suffering injuries at
 19 measurably higher rates than workers in other pri-
 20 vate sector industries;

21 (2) meat and poultry processing workers face
 22 double the rate of amputations as the average work-
 23 er in private industry, and injuries such as sprains,
 24 lacerations, and contusions are common among poul-
 25 try workers;

1 (3) meat and poultry processing workers suffer
2 from musculoskeletal injuries, such as carpal tunnel
3 syndrome, “trigger finger”, tendinitis, rotator cuff
4 injuries, lower back injuries, and chronic pain and
5 numbness, in numbers that can exceed 50 percent of
6 workers;

7 (4) higher line speeds in meat and poultry proc-
8 essing facilities is a recognized risk factor that leads
9 to increased risk of both laceration and musculo-
10 skeletal injuries; and

11 (5) meat and poultry processing workers are
12 subjected to exploitative conditions and abusive be-
13 havior by employers—

14 (A) including—

15 (i) use of abusive and humiliating
16 shouting by supervisors accusing workers
17 of not working fast enough and harassing
18 them to work “faster” and “harder”;

19 (ii) use of sexualized language to har-
20 ass women workers to work “harder” and
21 “faster”;

22 (iii) patterns of direct sexual harass-
23 ment and incidents of sexual assault; and

1 (iv) little or no accountability or re-
 2 dress for emotional, sexualized, or psycho-
 3 logical abuse due to—

4 (I) weak enforcement of, and
 5 noncompliance with, discrimination
 6 protections; and

7 (II) meat and poultry processing
 8 workers not reporting the abuse due
 9 to fear of receiving more abuse, hav-
 10 ing their employment terminated, or
 11 being reported to immigration en-
 12 forcement; and

13 (B) that lead to long-term psychological
 14 impacts, including increased feelings of anger
 15 and stress by workers pressured to work faster
 16 and more aggressively to slaughter animals on
 17 killing lines.

18 **SEC. 202. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this title:

20 (1) COVERED ESTABLISHMENT.—The term
 21 “covered establishment” means—

22 (A) an official establishment (as defined in
 23 section 301.2 of title 9, Code of Federal Regu-
 24 lations (or successor regulations)) that is sub-

ject to inspection under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.); and

(B) an official establishment (as defined in section 381.1(b) of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)) that is subject to inspection under the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.).

(2) EMPLOYEE; EMPLOYER.—Unless otherwise specified, the terms “employee” and “employer” have the meanings given those terms in section 3 of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 652).

Subtitle A—Reforms to Protect Meat and Poultry Processing Workers

PART I—DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

SEC. 211. RULE ON INCREASED LINE SPEEDS AT MEAT AND POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Service.

(2) ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—The term “Assistant Secretary” means the Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health.

1 (3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means
2 the Director of the National Institute for Occupa-
3 tional Safety and Health.

4 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Agriculture.

6 (5) SERVICE.—The term “Service” means the
7 Food Safety Inspection Service.

8 (b) RULE ON WAIVERS.—

9 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
10 provision of law (including regulations, including
11 sections 303.1(h) and 381.3(b) of title 9, Code of
12 Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)), the
13 Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall
14 not issue a waiver under those regulations relating
15 to line speeds that would result in higher line speeds
16 at a covered establishment or inspection staffing re-
17 quirements for a covered establishment unless the
18 covered establishment—

19 (A) agrees to an inspection conducted by
20 the Assistant Secretary or the Director for the
21 purposes of the waiver; and

22 (B) the Assistant Secretary or the Director
23 certifies to the Secretary that any increases in
24 line speed at the covered establishment would
25 not have an adverse impact on worker safety.

1 (2) INSPECTIONS.—An inspection conducted by
2 the Assistant Secretary or the Director under para-
3 graph (1)(A) shall include—

4 (A) an ergonomic analysis of all jobs in the
5 applicable covered establishment that may expe-
6 rience an increased work pace due to increasing
7 the number of animals being slaughtered—

8 (i) per minute; and

9 (ii) per hour;

10 (B) an assessment of the current rates of
11 musculoskeletal disorders in the covered estab-
12 lishment;

13 (C) a review of current efforts at the cov-
14 ered establishment to mitigate the disorders re-
15 ferred to in subparagraph (B), including a re-
16 view of how medical personnel at the covered
17 establishment manage those disorders; and

18 (D) a review of the impact of any proposed
19 line speed increases on the pace of work for
20 workers on the slaughter and production lines
21 of the covered establishment (including the
22 workers that package the meat).

23 (3) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY OVER LINE
24 SPEEDS.—None of the funds made available to the
25 Secretary on or after the date of enactment of this

1 Act may be used to develop, propose, finalize, issue,
 2 amend, or implement any policy, regulation, direc-
 3 tive, constituent update, or any other agency pro-
 4 gram that would increase line speeds at covered es-
 5 tablishments.

6 (4) EFFECT ON STATE LAW.—

7 (A) IN GENERAL.—This subsection shall
 8 not preempt or limit any law or regulation of a
 9 State or a political subdivision of a State that—

10 (i) imposes requirements that are
 11 more protective of worker safety or animal
 12 welfare than the requirements of this sub-
 13 section; or

14 (ii) creates penalties for conduct regu-
 15 lated by this subsection.

16 (B) OTHER LAWS.—The requirements of
 17 this subsection are in addition to, and not in
 18 lieu of, any other laws protecting worker safety
 19 and animal welfare.

20 (c) TRANSPARENCY IN RULEMAKING.—With respect
 21 to each rulemaking proceeding initiated by the Adminis-
 22 trator on or after the date of enactment of this Act, the
 23 Administrator shall comply with—

24 (1) the data quality guidelines of the Service,
 25 which state that the Service and the offices of the

1 Service are held to a standard of transparency to en-
2 sure that the information shared by the Service is
3 presented in an accurate, reliable, and unbiased
4 manner; and

5 (2) Executive Order 13563 (5 U.S.C. 601 note;
6 relating to improving regulation and regulatory re-
7 view), which requires Federal agencies to provide
8 timely online access to relevant scientific information
9 in an open format that can easily be searched and
10 downloaded during a proposed rulemaking.

11 (d) EVALUATION OF RULEMAKING AND POLICIES.—
12 In evaluating the impact of any rulemaking or policy, the
13 Secretary shall request that the Director conduct an eval-
14 uation of the rulemaking or policy that includes a review
15 of—

16 (1) current safety conditions and injuries and
17 illnesses at the applicable covered establishments, in-
18 cluding medical exams and medical histories;

19 (2) whether the policy proposals will increase
20 the pace of work for any employee at the applicable
21 covered establishments; and

22 (3) whether, and the extent to which, the policy
23 proposals will impact worker safety.

24 (e) REPORT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF RULES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after
2 the implementation of any rule relating to line
3 speeds at covered establishments, the Secretary shall
4 submit to Congress a report on the impact of the
5 rule on—

6 (A) line speeds at covered establishments;

7 (B) worker safety and health at covered es-
8 tablishments;

9 (C) ergonomic aspects of jobs at covered
10 establishments; and

11 (D) staffing levels that will ensure worker
12 safety at covered establishments.

13 (2) REQUIREMENT.—A report under paragraph
14 (1) shall include—

15 (A) the results of a study carried out by an
16 industrial engineer on every type of job at cov-
17 ered establishments impacted by the applicable
18 rule;

19 (B) a determination of the industrial engi-
20 neer of the number of workers needed—

21 (i) to do each job safely; and

22 (ii) to operate the covered establish-
23 ment at different line speeds; and

24 (C) a job crewing report prepared by the
25 industrial engineer.

1 **PART II—FAIR ATTENDANCE POLICIES**

2 **SEC. 221. DEFINITIONS.**

3 In this part:

4 (1) COVERED ENTITY.—The term “covered en-
5 tity”—

6 (A) means a respondent, as defined in sec-
7 tion 701(n) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42
8 U.S.C. 2000e(n)); and

9 (B) notwithstanding subparagraph (A) in-
10 cludes—

11 (i) an employing office, as defined in
12 section 101 of the Congressional Account-
13 ability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301);

14 (ii) an employing office, as defined in
15 section 411(c) of title 3, United States
16 Code;

17 (iii) an entity employing a State em-
18 ployee described in section 304(a) of the
19 Government Employee Rights Act of 1991
20 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16c(a)); and

21 (iv) an entity to which section 717(a)
22 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C.
23 2000e–16(a)) applies.

24 (2) EMPLOYEE.—The term “employee”
25 means—

1 (A) an employee (including an applicant),
 2 as defined in section 701(f) of the Civil Rights
 3 Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e(f));

4 (B) a covered employee (including an ap-
 5 plicant), as defined in section 101 of the Con-
 6 gressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C.
 7 1301);

8 (C) a covered employee (including an appli-
 9 cant), as defined in section 411(c) of title 3,
 10 United States Code;

11 (D) a State employee (including an appli-
 12 cant) described in section 304(a) of the Govern-
 13 ment Employee Rights Act of 1991 (42 U.S.C.
 14 2000e–16c(a)); or

15 (E) an employee (including an applicant)
 16 to which section 717(a) of the Civil Rights Act
 17 of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e–16(a)) applies.

18 (3) LEGALLY PROTECTED LEAVE.—The term
 19 “legally protected leave”, when used with respect to
 20 an employee, means leave that is protected under a
 21 Federal, State, or local law applicable to the em-
 22 ployee.

23 (4) NO FAULT ATTENDANCE POLICY.—The
 24 term “no fault attendance policy” means a policy (or
 25 pattern and practice) maintained by a covered entity

under which employees face consequences for any absence, tardy, or early departure through the assessment of points (also referred to as “demerits” or “occurrences”) or deductions from an allotted bank of time, and those points or deductions subject the employee to progressive disciplinary action, which may include failure to receive a promotion, loss of pay, or termination.

(5) PERSON.—The term “person” has the meaning given such term in section 701(a) of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000e(a)).

(6) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor.

**SEC. 222. REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYERS RELATING TO
NO FAULT ATTENDANCE POLICIES OR AT-
TENDANCE SYSTEMS.**

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR NO FAULT ATTENDANCE POLICY.—It shall be considered an unlawful employment practice for a covered entity to maintain a no fault attendance policy, unless the covered entity complies with the following:

(1) The no fault attendance policy shall be distributed in writing (and be made available in the primary language of the employee receiving the policy)—

1 (A) not later than 90 days after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, to each employee em-
3 ployed by the covered entity as of that date of
4 distribution; and

5 (B) with respect to each employee hired by
6 the covered entity after such date of enactment,
7 upon the commencement of the employee's em-
8 ployment.

9 (2) If any changes are made to the no fault at-
10 tendance policy, the no fault attendance policy shall
11 be distributed to all employees in writing (and be
12 made available in the primary language of the em-
13 ployees), by not later than 30 days after the date of
14 the changes.

15 (3) The covered entity shall provide employees
16 with a means of accessing the no fault attendance
17 policy at any physical workplace, and outside of a
18 physical workplace, in an accessible location.

19 (4) The no fault attendance policy shall explic-
20 itly state that employees will not face disciplinary
21 action or other adverse consequences, which may in-
22 clude the assessment of points or a deduction from
23 an allotted bank of time, for legally protected leave.

24 (5) The no fault attendance policy shall specifi-
25 cally reference and provide a reasonable amount of

1 detail about all Federal, State, and local laws appli-
2 cable to the employees that provide legally protected
3 leave, including the Americans with Disabilities Act
4 of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12101 et seq.), the Family and
5 Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et seq.),
6 and chapter 43 of title 38, United States Code.

7 (6) The no fault attendance policy shall identify
8 a process for employees to complete each of the fol-
9 lowing:

10 (A) Report that an absence is for legally
11 protected leave.

12 (B) Provide medical documentation, if it is
13 required under the no fault attendance policy in
14 order to avoid disciplinary action or other ad-
15 verse consequences for legally protected leave.

16 (C) Seek removal of points that an em-
17 ployee believes were wrongly assessed, or the
18 restoration of time that an employee believes
19 was wrongly deducted for legally protected
20 leave.

21 (D) Delay the reporting of an absence in
22 unforeseen or emergency circumstances without
23 incurring additional points or discipline.

24 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR ATTENDANCE SYSTEMS.—

25 It shall be an unlawful employment practice for a covered

1 entity to maintain any attendance system policy, or pat-
 2 tern and practice, that discourages employees from exer-
 3 cising, or attempting to exercise, any right to legally pro-
 4 tected leave.

5 **SEC. 223. REMEDIES AND ENFORCEMENT.**

6 (a) CIVIL ACTION.—The powers, remedies, and pro-
 7 cedures provided in section 107 of the Family and Medical
 8 Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2617) shall be the powers,
 9 remedies, and procedures this part provides to any person
 10 alleging an unlawful employment practice described in sec-
 11 tion 222.

12 (b) PENALTIES.—Any covered entity that commits an
 13 unlawful employment practice described in section 222
 14 shall be subject to a civil penalty not to exceed the
 15 amounts under section 17(a) of the Occupational Safety
 16 and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 666(a)), as adjusted
 17 annually for inflation. The Secretary may bring any legal
 18 action necessary, including administrative action, to collect
 19 such penalties.

20 **SEC. 224. RULEMAKING.**

21 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
 22 of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the Equal
 23 Employment Opportunity Commission and the heads of
 24 other relevant Federal agencies, shall issue regulations in
 25 an accessible format in accordance with subchapter II of

1 chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, to carry out this
 2 part. Such regulations shall provide an example of a model
 3 no fault attendance policy that conforms to the require-
 4 ments of this part.

5 **SEC. 225. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.**

6 Nothing in this part shall be construed to invalidate
 7 or limit the powers, remedies, and procedures under any
 8 Federal law or law of any State or political subdivision
 9 of any State or jurisdiction that provide legally protected
 10 leave.

11 **PART III—OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH**
 12 **ADMINISTRATION REFORMS**

13 **SEC. 231. DEFINITIONS.**

14 In this part, the terms “Secretary” and “State” have
 15 the meanings given such terms in section 3 of the Occupa-
 16 tional Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 652).

17 **SEC. 232. ENSURING COMPLIANCE WITH EMPLOYEE**
 18 **RIGHTS TO USE TOILET FACILITIES AT COV-**
 19 **ERED ESTABLISHMENTS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—During any inspection of a cov-
 21 ered establishment conducted pursuant to section 8 of the
 22 Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C.
 23 657), the Secretary shall verify that the employer of em-
 24 ployees working at such establishment is in compliance
 25 with the occupational safety and health standard set forth

1 in section 1910.141 of title 29, Code of Federal Regula-
2 tions, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment
3 of this Act, for employers to provide prompt access for
4 employees to visit and use toilet facilities, including such
5 standard as interpreted by the memorandum for regional
6 administrators and State designees regarding “Interpreta-
7 tion of 29 CFR. 1910.141(c)(1)(i): Toilet Facilities”
8 issued by the Occupational Safety and Health Administra-
9 tion on April 6, 1998, and any successor regulation.

10 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a),
11 the Secretary shall verify that the employer described in
12 such subsection—

13 (1) allows employees to leave their work loca-
14 tions to use a toilet facility when needed and without
15 punishment;

16 (2) provides an adequate number of toilet facili-
17 ties for the size of the workforce to prevent long
18 lines;

19 (3) avoids imposing unreasonable restrictions
20 including waiting lists on the use of toilet facilities;

21 (4) ensures that restrictions, such as locking
22 doors or requiring employees to sign out a key, do
23 not cause extended delays in access to toilet facili-
24 ties; and

1 (5) compensates each employee for breaks for
 2 using toilet facilities at the regular rate of pay of the
 3 employee in accordance with section 785.18 of title
 4 29, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the
 5 day before the date of enactment of this Act, and
 6 any other applicable Federal, State, or local law.

7 **SEC. 233. OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH STAND-**
 8 **ARDS TO PROTECT EMPLOYEES IN COVERED**
 9 **ESTABLISHMENTS.**

10 (a) STANDARD FOR PROTECTING EMPLOYEES FROM
 11 OCCUPATIONAL RISK FACTORS CAUSING MUSCULO-
 12 SKELETAL DISORDERS.—

13 (1) PROPOSED STANDARD.—Not later than 1
 14 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the
 15 Secretary shall, pursuant to section 6 of the Occupa-
 16 tional Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C.
 17 655), publish in the Federal Register a proposed
 18 standard for ergonomic program management for
 19 covered establishments. Such proposed standard
 20 shall include requirements for—

21 (A) hazard identification and ergonomic
 22 job evaluations, including requirements for em-
 23 ployee and authorized employee representative
 24 participation in such identification;

1 (B) hazard control, which such require-
2 ments rely on the principles of the hierarchy of
3 controls and which may include measures such
4 as rest breaks, equipment and workstation rede-
5 sign, work pace reductions, or job rotation to
6 less forceful or repetitive jobs;

7 (C) training for employees regarding em-
8 ployer activities, occupational risk factors, and
9 training on controls and recognition of symp-
10 toms of musculoskeletal disorders; and

11 (D) medical management that includes—

12 (i) encouraging early reporting of
13 musculoskeletal disorder symptoms;

14 (ii) first aid delivered by those oper-
15 ating under State licensing requirements;
16 and

17 (iii) systematic evaluation and early
18 referral for medical attention.

19 (2) FINAL STANDARD.—Not later than 30
20 months after the date of enactment this Act, the
21 Secretary shall, pursuant to section 6 of the Occupa-
22 tional Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C.
23 655), publish in the Federal Register a final stand-
24 ard based on the proposed standard under para-
25 graph (1).

1 (b) STANDARD FOR PROTECTING EMPLOYEES FROM
2 DELAYS IN MEDICAL TREATMENT REFERRALS FOL-
3 LOWING INJURIES OR ILLNESSES.—

4 (1) PROPOSED STANDARD.—Not later than 3
5 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the
6 Secretary shall, pursuant to section 6 of the Occupa-
7 tional Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C.
8 655), publish in the Federal Register a proposed
9 standard requiring that all employers with employees
10 working at a covered establishment who, in accord-
11 ance with the standard promulgated under section
12 1910.151 of title 29, Code of Federal Regulations,
13 as in effect on the day before the date of enactment
14 of this Act, are required to have a person readily
15 available at the establishment who is adequately
16 trained to render first aid shall ensure that such
17 person—

18 (A) without delay, refers any such em-
19 ployee who reports an injury or illness that re-
20 quires further medical treatment to an appro-
21 priate medical professional of the employee's
22 choice for such treatment;

23 (B) provides for occupational medicine con-
24 sultation services through a physician who is

1 board certified in occupational medicine, which
2 services shall include—

3 (i) regular review of any health and
4 safety program, medical management pro-
5 gram, or ergonomics program of the em-
6 ployer;

7 (ii) review of any work-related injury
8 or illness of an employee;

9 (iii) providing onsite health services
10 for treatment of such injury or illness; and

11 (iv) consultation referral to a local
12 health care provider for treating such in-
13 jury or illness; and

14 (C) complies with the licensing require-
15 ments for licensed practical nurses or registered
16 nurses in the State in which the establishment
17 is located.

18 (2) FINAL STANDARD.—Not later than 1 year
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-
20 retary shall, pursuant to section 6 of the Occupa-
21 tional Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C.
22 655), publish in the Federal Register a final stand-
23 ard based on the proposed standard under para-
24 graph (1).

1 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 2 are authorized to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for fiscal
 3 year 2026 to carry out this section.

4 **SEC. 234. PERMANENT REGIONAL EMPHASIS INSPECTION**
 5 **PROGRAM; EXPANDING INSPECTIONS.**

6 (a) REGIONAL EMPHASIS INSPECTION PROGRAM.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after
 8 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary
 9 shall, pursuant to section 8 of the Occupational
 10 Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 657), im-
 11 plement a regional emphasis inspection program for
 12 covered establishments in every State in which a cov-
 13 ered establishment is located. Such program shall
 14 cover—

15 (A) amputation hazards;

16 (B) ergonomics;

17 (C) hazards related to line speeds;

18 (D) bathroom breaks;

19 (E) use of chemicals such as peracetic acid
 20 (antimicrobials); and

21 (F) working conditions in high and low
 22 temperatures.

23 (2) STATE PLANS.—Not later than 30 days
 24 after the date of enactment of this Act, a State with
 25 a State plan that has been approved by the Sec-

1 retary under section 18 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 667)
 2 shall adopt in each region within the State in which
 3 a covered establishment is located a regional empha-
 4 sis inspection program that is at least as effective as
 5 the program under paragraph (1).

6 (b) EXPANDING INSPECTIONS WHEN INFORMATION
 7 PRESENTS POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL DANGERS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary conducts a
 9 physical inspection of a covered establishment pursu-
 10 ant to section 8 of such Act in response to a refer-
 11 ral, complaint, or fatality, and the Secretary, during
 12 such inspection makes a determination described in
 13 paragraph (2), the Secretary shall expand such in-
 14 spection to all areas of the establishment.

15 (2) DETERMINATION.—A determination de-
 16 scribed in this paragraph is either of the following:

17 (A) A determination, following a review of
 18 records of work-related injuries and illnesses
 19 maintained in accordance with such section 8,
 20 that a work-related injury or illness may be re-
 21 lated to a workplace danger that may threaten
 22 physical harm.

23 (B) A determination, upon interviews with
 24 employees, that a workplace danger may threat-
 25 en physical harm.

1 **SEC. 235. REPRESENTATIVES DURING PHYSICAL INSPEC-**
2 **TIONS.**

3 (a) PROPOSED RULE.—Not later than 1 year after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall,
5 under section 8(e) of the Occupational Safety and Health
6 Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 657(e)), publish in the Federal
7 Register a regulation providing that during a physical in-
8 spection of a covered establishment under such section—

9 (1) the representative authorized by employees
10 to be given the opportunity to accompany the Sec-
11 retary during the inspection as described in such
12 section shall not be required to be an employee of
13 the employer;

14 (2) where there is no representative authorized
15 by employees as described in paragraph (1), the em-
16 ployees may designate a person affiliated with a
17 worker-based community organization to serve as
18 such representative; and

19 (3) the inspector may arrange for interviews
20 with employees off-site upon the request of the rep-
21 resentative or designated person.

22 (b) FINAL RULE.—Not later than 2 years after the
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall publish
24 in the Federal Register a final rule for the proposed rule
25 under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 236. ENHANCED PROTECTIONS FROM RETALIATION.**

2 (a) EMPLOYEE ACTIONS.—Section 11(c)(1) of the
3 Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C.
4 660(c)(1)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “discharge” and all that follows
6 through “because such” and inserting the following:
7 “discharge or cause to be discharged, or in any
8 other manner retaliate or discriminate against or
9 cause to be retaliated or discriminated against, any
10 employee because—

11 “(A) such”;

12 (2) by striking “this Act or has” and inserting
13 the following: “this Act;

14 “(B) such employee has”;

15 (3) by striking “in any such proceeding or be-
16 cause of the exercise” and inserting the following:
17 “before Congress or in any Federal or State pro-
18 ceeding related to safety or health;

19 “(C) such employee has refused to violate
20 any provision of this Act; or

21 “(D) of the exercise”; and

22 (4) by inserting before the period at the end the
23 following: “, including the reporting of any injury,
24 illness, or unsafe condition to the employer, agent of
25 the employer, safety and health committee involved,

1 or employee safety and health representative in-
 2 volved”.

3 (b) PROHIBITION OF RETALIATION; PROCEDURE.—

4 Section 11 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 660) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (c)—

6 (A) in paragraph (2)—

7 (i) by striking “discharged or other-
 8 wise discriminated against by any person
 9 in violation of this subsection” and insert-
 10 ing “aggrieved by a violation of this sub-
 11 section”; and

12 (ii) by striking “such discrimination”
 13 and inserting “such violation”; and

14 (B) by adding at the end the following:

15 “(4) EXCEPTION FOR MEAT AND POULTRY ES-
 16 TABLISHMENTS.—Paragraphs (2) and (3) shall not
 17 apply with respect to a complaint filed by an em-
 18 ployee of an employer that is a covered establish-
 19 ment, as defined in section 202 of the Agricultural
 20 Worker Justice Act.”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(d) MEAT AND POULTRY ESTABLISHMENTS.—

23 “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

1 “(A) COMPLAINANT.—The term ‘complain-
2 ant’ means a complainant who is a covered em-
3 ployee.

4 “(B) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term
5 ‘covered employee’ means an employee of a cov-
6 ered employer.

7 “(C) COVERED EMPLOYER.—The term
8 ‘covered employer’ means an employer that is a
9 covered establishment, as defined in section 202
10 of the Agricultural Worker Justice Act.

11 “(D) RESPONDENT.—The term ‘respond-
12 ent’ means a respondent who is a covered em-
13 ployer.

14 “(2) REASONABLE APPREHENSION.—No person
15 shall discharge, or cause to be discharged, or in any
16 other manner retaliate or discriminate against, or
17 cause to be retaliated or discriminated against, a
18 covered employee for refusing to perform the covered
19 employee’s duties if—

20 “(A) the covered employee has a reason-
21 able apprehension that performing such duties
22 would result in serious injury to, or serious im-
23 pairment of the health of, the covered employee
24 or other covered employees; and

1 “(B) when practicable, the covered em-
 2 ployee has communicated or attempted to com-
 3 municate such reasonable apprehension to the
 4 covered employer and has not received from the
 5 covered employer a response reasonably cal-
 6 culated to allay such apprehension.

7 “(3) COMPLAINT.—Any covered employee who
 8 believes that the covered employee has been dis-
 9 charged, disciplined, or otherwise retaliated or dis-
 10 criminated against by any person in violation of sub-
 11 section (c)(1) or paragraph (2) of this subsection
 12 may seek relief for such violation by filing a com-
 13 plaint with the Secretary under paragraph (5).

14 “(4) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

15 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered employee
 16 may take the action permitted by paragraph (3)
 17 not later than 180 days after the later of—

18 “(i) the date on which an alleged vio-
 19 lation of subsection (c)(1) or paragraph (2)
 20 of this subsection occurs; or

21 “(ii) the date on which the covered
 22 employee knows or should reasonably have
 23 known that such alleged violation occurred.

24 “(B) REPEAT VIOLATION.—Except in
 25 cases when the covered employee has been dis-

1 charged, a violation of subsection (c)(1) or
 2 paragraph (2) of this subsection shall be consid-
 3 ered to have occurred on the last date an al-
 4 leged repeat violation occurred.

5 “(5) INVESTIGATION.—

6 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered employee
 7 may, within the time period required under
 8 paragraph (4)(A), file a complaint with the Sec-
 9 retary alleging a violation of subsection (c)(1)
 10 or paragraph (2) of this subsection. If the com-
 11 plaint alleges a prima facie case, the Secretary
 12 shall conduct an investigation of the allegations
 13 in the complaint, which—

14 “(i) shall include—

15 “(I) interviewing the complain-
 16 ant;

17 “(II) providing the respondent an
 18 opportunity to—

19 “(aa) submit to the Sec-
 20 retary a written response to the
 21 complaint; and

22 “(bb) meet with the Sec-
 23 retary to present statements from
 24 witnesses or provide evidence;
 25 and

1 “(III) providing the complainant
2 an opportunity to—

3 “(aa) receive any statements
4 or evidence provided to the Sec-
5 retary;

6 “(bb) meet with the Sec-
7 retary; and

8 “(cc) rebut any statements
9 or evidence; and

10 “(ii) may include issuing subpoenas
11 for the purposes of such investigation.

12 “(B) DECISION.—Not later than 90 days
13 after the filing of the complaint under this
14 paragraph, the Secretary shall—

15 “(i) determine whether reasonable
16 cause exists to believe that a violation of
17 subsection (c)(1) or paragraph (2) of this
18 subsection has occurred; and

19 “(ii) issue a decision granting or de-
20 nying relief.

21 “(6) PRELIMINARY ORDER FOLLOWING INVES-
22 TIGATION.—If, after completion of an investigation
23 under paragraph (5)(A), the Secretary finds reason-
24 able cause to believe that a violation of subsection
25 (c)(1) or paragraph (2) of this subsection has oc-

1 curred, the Secretary shall issue a preliminary order
2 providing relief authorized under paragraph (14) at
3 the same time the Secretary issues a decision under
4 paragraph (5)(B). If a de novo hearing is not re-
5 quested within the time period required under para-
6 graph (7)(A)(i), such preliminary order shall be
7 deemed a final order of the Secretary and is not
8 subject to judicial review.

9 “(7) HEARING.—

10 “(A) REQUEST FOR HEARING.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A de novo hearing
12 on the record before an administrative law
13 judge may be requested—

14 “(I) by the complainant or re-
15 spondent within 30 days after receiv-
16 ing notification of a decision granting
17 or denying relief issued under para-
18 graph (5)(B) or a preliminary order
19 under paragraph (6), respectively;

20 “(II) by the complainant within
21 30 days after the date the complaint
22 is dismissed without investigation by
23 the Secretary under paragraph (5)(A);
24 or

1 “(III) by the complainant within
2 120 days after the date of filing the
3 complaint under paragraph (5), if the
4 Secretary has not issued a decision
5 under paragraph (5)(B).

6 “(ii) REINSTATEMENT ORDER.—The
7 request for a hearing shall not operate to
8 stay any preliminary reinstatement order
9 issued under paragraph (6).

10 “(B) PROCEDURES.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A hearing re-
12 quested under this paragraph shall be con-
13 ducted expeditiously and in accordance
14 with rules established by the Secretary for
15 hearings conducted by administrative law
16 judges.

17 “(ii) SUBPOENAS; PRODUCTION OF
18 EVIDENCE.—In conducting any such hear-
19 ing, the administrative law judge may issue
20 subpoenas. The respondent or complainant
21 may request the issuance of subpoenas
22 that require the deposition of, or the at-
23 tendance and testimony of, witnesses and
24 the production of any evidence (including
25 any books, papers, documents, or record-

ings) relating to the matter under consideration.

“(iii) DECISION.—The administrative law judge shall issue a decision not later than 90 days after the date on which a hearing was requested under this paragraph and promptly notify, in writing, the parties and the Secretary of such decision, including the findings of fact and conclusions of law. If the administrative law judge finds that a violation of subsection (c)(1) or paragraph (2) of this subsection has occurred, the judge shall issue an order for relief under paragraph (14). If review under paragraph (8) is not timely requested, such order shall be deemed a final order of the Secretary that is not subject to judicial review.

“(8) ADMINISTRATIVE APPEAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of notification of a decision and order issued by an administrative law judge under paragraph (7), the complainant or respondent may file, with objections, an administrative appeal with an administrative review

body designated by the Secretary (referred to in this paragraph as the ‘review board’).

“(B) STANDARD OF REVIEW.—In reviewing the decision and order of the administrative law judge, the review board shall affirm the decision and order if it is determined that the factual findings set forth therein are supported by substantial evidence and the decision and order are made in accordance with applicable law.

“(C) DECISIONS.—If the review board grants an administrative appeal, the review board shall issue a final decision and order affirming or reversing, in whole or in part, the decision under review by not later than 90 days after receipt of the administrative appeal. If it is determined that a violation of subsection (c)(1) or paragraph (2) of this subsection has occurred, the review board shall issue a final decision and order providing relief authorized under paragraph (14). Such decision and order shall constitute final agency action with respect to the matter appealed.

“(9) SETTLEMENT IN THE ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—At any time before
 2 issuance of a final order, an investigation or
 3 proceeding under this subsection may be termi-
 4 nated on the basis of a settlement agreement
 5 entered into by the parties.

6 “(B) PUBLIC POLICY CONSIDERATIONS.—
 7 Neither the Secretary, an administrative law
 8 judge, nor the review board conducting a hear-
 9 ing under this subsection shall accept a settle-
 10 ment that contains conditions conflicting with
 11 the rights protected under this Act or that are
 12 contrary to public policy, including a restriction
 13 on a complainant’s right to future employment
 14 with employers other than the specific covered
 15 employers named in a complaint.

16 “(10) INACTION BY THE REVIEW BOARD OR AD-
 17 MINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The complainant may
 19 bring a de novo action described in subpara-
 20 graph (B) if—

21 “(i) an administrative law judge has
 22 not issued a decision and order within the
 23 90-day time period required under para-
 24 graph (7)(B)(iii); or

1 “(ii) the review board has not issued
2 a decision and order within the 90-day
3 time period required under paragraph
4 (8)(C).

5 “(B) DE NOVO ACTION.—Such de novo ac-
6 tion may be brought at law or equity in the
7 United States district court for the district
8 where a violation of subsection (c)(1) or para-
9 graph (2) of this subsection allegedly occurred
10 or where the complainant resided on the date of
11 such alleged violation. The court shall have ju-
12 risdiction over such action without regard to the
13 amount in controversy and to order appropriate
14 relief under paragraph (14). Such action shall,
15 at the request of either party to such action, be
16 tried by the court with a jury.

17 “(11) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

18 “(A) TIMELY APPEAL TO THE COURT OF
19 APPEALS.—Any party adversely affected or ag-
20 grieved by a final decision and order issued
21 under this subsection may obtain review of such
22 decision and order in the United States Court
23 of Appeals for the circuit where the violation,
24 with respect to which such final decision and
25 order was issued, allegedly occurred or where

1 the complainant resided on the date of such al-
2 leged violation. To obtain such review, a party
3 shall file a petition for review not later than 60
4 days after the final decision and order was
5 issued. Such review shall conform to chapter 7
6 of title 5, United States Code. The commence-
7 ment of proceedings under this subparagraph
8 shall not, unless ordered by the court, operate
9 as a stay of the final decision and order.

10 “(B) LIMITATION ON COLLATERAL AT-
11 TACK.—An order and decision with respect to
12 which review may be obtained under subpara-
13 graph (A) shall not be subject to judicial review
14 in any criminal or other civil proceeding.

15 “(12) ENFORCEMENT OF ORDER.—If a re-
16 spondent fails to comply with an order issued under
17 this subsection, the Secretary or the complainant on
18 whose behalf the order was issued may file a civil ac-
19 tion for enforcement in the United States district
20 court for the district in which the violation was
21 found to occur to enforce such order. If both the
22 Secretary and the complainant file such action, the
23 action of the Secretary shall take precedence. The
24 district court shall have jurisdiction to grant all ap-
25 propriate relief described in paragraph (14).

1 “(13) BURDENS OF PROOF.—

2 “(A) CRITERIA FOR DETERMINATION.—In
3 making a determination or adjudicating a com-
4 plaint pursuant to this subsection, the Sec-
5 retary, administrative law judge, review board,
6 or a court may determine that a violation of
7 subsection (c)(1) or paragraph (2) of this sub-
8 section has occurred only if the complainant
9 demonstrates that any conduct described in
10 subsection (c)(1) or paragraph (2) of this sub-
11 section with respect to the complainant was a
12 contributing factor in the adverse action alleged
13 in the complaint.

14 “(B) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding sub-
15 paragraph (A), a decision or order that is favor-
16 able to the complainant shall not be issued in
17 any administrative or judicial action pursuant
18 to this subsection if the respondent dem-
19 onstrates by clear and convincing evidence that
20 the respondent would have taken the same ad-
21 verse action in the absence of such conduct.

22 “(14) RELIEF.—

23 “(A) ORDER FOR RELIEF.—If the Sec-
24 retary, administrative law judge, review board,
25 or a court determines that a covered employer

1 has violated subsection (c)(1) or paragraph (2)
2 of this subsection, the Secretary, administrative
3 law judge, review board, or court, respectively,
4 shall have jurisdiction to order all appropriate
5 relief, including injunctive relief, and compen-
6 satory and exemplary damages, including—

7 “(i) affirmative action to abate the
8 violation;

9 “(ii) reinstatement without loss of po-
10 sition or seniority, and restoration of the
11 terms, rights, conditions, and privileges as-
12 sociated with the complainant’s employ-
13 ment, including opportunities for pro-
14 motions to positions with equivalent or bet-
15 ter compensation for which the complain-
16 ant is qualified;

17 “(iii) compensatory and consequential
18 damages sufficient to make the complain-
19 ant whole (including back pay, prejudg-
20 ment interest, and other damages); and

21 “(iv) expungement of all warnings,
22 reprimands, or derogatory references that
23 have been placed in paper or electronic
24 records or databases of any type relating
25 to the actions by the complainant that

1 gave rise to the unfavorable personnel ac-
2 tion, and, at the complainant's direction,
3 transmission of a copy of the decision on
4 the complaint to any person whom the
5 complainant reasonably believes may have
6 received such unfavorable information.

7 “(B) ATTORNEYS’ FEES AND COSTS.—If
8 the Secretary or an administrative law judge,
9 review board, or court grants an order for relief
10 under subparagraph (A), the Secretary, admin-
11 istrative law judge, review board, or court, re-
12 spectively, shall assess, at the request of the
13 covered employee against the covered em-
14 ployer—

15 “(i) reasonable attorneys’ fees; and

16 “(ii) costs (including expert witness
17 fees) reasonably incurred, as determined
18 by the Secretary, administrative law judge,
19 review board, or court, respectively, in con-
20 nection with bringing the complaint upon
21 which the order was issued.

22 “(15) PROCEDURAL RIGHTS.—The rights and
23 remedies provided for in this subsection may not be
24 waived by any agreement, policy, form, or condition

1 of employment, including by any pre-dispute arbitra-
 2 tion agreement or collective bargaining agreement.

3 “(16) SAVINGS.—Nothing in this subsection
 4 shall be construed to diminish the rights, privileges,
 5 or remedies of any covered employee under any Fed-
 6 eral or State law or common law, or under any col-
 7 lective bargaining agreement.

8 “(17) ELECTION OF VENUE.—

9 “(A) IN GENERAL.—A covered employee of
 10 a covered employer who is located in a State
 11 that has a State plan approved under section
 12 18 may file a complaint alleging a violation of
 13 subsection (c)(1) or paragraph (2) of this sub-
 14 section by such employer with—

15 “(i) the Secretary under paragraph
 16 (5); or

17 “(ii) a State plan administrator in
 18 such State.

19 “(B) REFERRALS.—If—

20 “(i) the Secretary receives a complaint
 21 pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), the Sec-
 22 retary shall not refer such complaint to a
 23 State plan administrator for resolution; or

24 “(ii) a State plan administrator re-
 25 ceives a complaint pursuant to subpara-

1 graph (A)(ii), the State plan administrator
2 shall not refer such complaint to the Sec-
3 retary for resolution.

4 “(18) PRESUMPTION OF RETALIATION.—The
5 Secretary shall apply an un rebuttable presumption
6 of retaliation in any complaint initiated under para-
7 graph (5) in which the Secretary finds a covered em-
8 ployee suffers an adverse action within 90 days of
9 the date on which the covered employee took any ac-
10 tion protected under subsection (c)(1) or raised any
11 reasonable apprehension under paragraph (2) of this
12 subsection.

13 “(19) SUPPLEMENT AND NOT SUPPLANT.—The
14 remedies provided for under this subsection supple-
15 ment, and do not supplant, the private right of ac-
16 tion under section 240 of the Agricultural Worker
17 Justice Act.

18 “(20) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
19 section and subsection (c)—

20 “(A) the term ‘retaliate or discriminate
21 against’ includes reporting, or threatening to
22 report, to a Federal, State, or local authority
23 the suspected citizenship or immigration status
24 of a covered employee, or of a family member
25 of a covered employee, because the covered em-

1 employee raises a concern about workplace health
2 and safety practices or hazards; and

3 “(B) the term ‘family member’, with re-
4 spect to the family member of a covered em-
5 ployee, means an individual who—

6 “(i) is related to the covered employee
7 by blood, adoption, marriage, or domestic
8 partnership; and

9 “(ii) is a significant other, parent, sib-
10 ling, child, uncle, aunt, niece, nephew,
11 cousin, grandparent, or grandchild of the
12 covered employee.”.

13 (c) RELATION TO ENFORCEMENT.—Section 17(j) of
14 such Act (29 U.S.C. 666(j)) is amended by inserting be-
15 fore the period the following: “, including the history of
16 violations under subsection (c) or (d) of section 11”.

17 **SEC. 237. REGULATIONS TO RESTORE A COLUMN ON RE-**
18 **QUIRED RECORDS OF WORK-RELATED MUS-**
19 **CULOSKELETAL DISORDERS.**

20 Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment
21 of this Act, the Secretary shall issue a final rule regarding
22 matters pertaining to the proposed rule issued by the Sec-
23 retary on January 29, 2010, entitled “Occupational Injury
24 and Illness Recording and Reporting Requirements” (75
25 Fed. Reg. 4728).

1 **SEC. 238. FUNDING FOR ADDITIONAL OSHA INSPECTORS.**

2 Out of any amounts in the Treasury not otherwise
3 appropriated, there is appropriated \$60,000,000 to the
4 Secretary for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031, to
5 remain available until expended for—

6 (1) the hiring of additional inspectors to carry
7 out inspections under section 8 of the Occupational
8 Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 657); and

9 (2) carrying out sections 6, 8, and 11 of the
10 Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29
11 U.S.C. 655; 657; and 660), as amended by this Act.

12 **SEC. 239. OSHA REPORTING.**

13 (a) DEFINITION OF PANDEMIC.—In this section, the
14 term “pandemic” means a public health emergency de-
15 clared under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act
16 (42 U.S.C. 247d) with respect to a pandemic.

17 (b) REPORTING DURING A PANDEMIC.—

18 (1) STANDARDIZED REPORTING.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall es-
20 tablish a standardized process for covered es-
21 tablishments to report, on a weekly basis during
22 a pandemic, to the Secretary information re-
23 garding infections and deaths related to the
24 pandemic. Such information shall include—

25 (i) the number of employees on a
26 weekly and cumulative basis that have con-

1 tracted the disease resulting in the pan-
2 demic;

3 (ii) racial demographics of such em-
4 ployees; and

5 (iii) the employment status of such
6 employees.

7 (B) FORM AND PROCEDURES.—Not later
8 than 1 year after the date of enactment of this
9 Act, or 7 days following a declaration of a pan-
10 demic, whichever is sooner, the Secretary shall
11 issue reporting procedures described in sub-
12 paragraph (A), including forms for such proce-
13 dures, for pandemics.

14 (2) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary
15 shall make the information reported under para-
16 graph (1) available to the public in a manner that
17 facilitates public participation, including by making
18 such information available on its website in a man-
19 ner that maximizes public participation.

20 (3) PRIVACY.—A covered establishment, in re-
21 porting information to the Secretary under para-
22 graph (1), may not claim confidential business infor-
23 mation or patient privacy, except that such an estab-
24 lishment may withhold the names of workers, as a
25 basis to withhold information.

1 (c) DISCLOSURES TO EMPLOYEES.—A covered estab-
2 lishment shall disclose to each employee or individual pro-
3 viding work for the employer, including any individual pro-
4 viding such work through a contract or subcontract, all
5 chemicals used at the worksite where the employee or indi-
6 vidual provides such work. Such disclosure shall be pro-
7 vided to the employee or individual in the native language
8 of the employee or individual.

9 **SEC. 240. PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Any person aggrieved by the fail-
11 ure of a covered establishment to comply with the Occupa-
12 tional Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 651 et
13 seq.), including any regulation promulgated pursuant to
14 such Act, or to comply with this subtitle may file suit in
15 any district court of the United States having jurisdiction
16 of the parties, without respect to the amount in con-
17 troversy and without regard to the citizenship of the par-
18 ties, or in any other court of competent jurisdiction.

19 (b) RIGHT OF RECOVERY.—In an action brought by
20 any aggrieved person pursuant to this section, the person
21 may recover equitable and legal relief (including compen-
22 satory and punitive damages), attorney’s fees (including
23 expert fees), and costs of the action.

24 (c) ACTION BY THE SECRETARY.—Any administra-
25 tive enforcement by the Secretary shall not preclude the

1 relief afforded by this section or otherwise deprive a court
2 of jurisdiction.

3 **SEC. 241. INJUNCTION PROCEEDINGS.**

4 Section 13(a) of the Occupational Safety and Health
5 Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 662(a)) is amended by adding at
6 the end the following: “Any employee (or the representa-
7 tive of such employee) at a place of employment subject
8 to enforcement under this subsection may unconditionally
9 intervene as a matter of right.”.

10 **PART IV—SAVINGS PROVISION**

11 **SEC. 251. SAVINGS PROVISION.**

12 Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to diminish
13 the rights, privileges, or remedies of any employee who ex-
14 ercises rights under any Federal or State law or common
15 law, or under any collective bargaining agreement.

16 **Subtitle B—GAO Reports**

17 **SEC. 261. REVIEW AND REPORT ON RACIAL AND ETHNIC**

18 **DISPARITIES IN MEAT AND POULTRY PROC-**

19 **ESSING.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
21 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
22 of the United States shall carry out, and submit to Con-
23 gress, a report on racial and ethnic disparities in the meat
24 and poultry processing sector.

1 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The report under subsection (a)
2 shall contain a review of each of the following:

3 (1) The impacts of working in covered estab-
4 lishments to individuals working at such establish-
5 ments who are employees, temporary workers, incar-
6 cerated workers, noncitizen workers admitted to the
7 United States as nonimmigrants described in section
8 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b) of the Immigration and Nation-
9 ality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b)) or as ref-
10 ugees under section 207 of that Act (8 U.S.C.
11 1157), or noncitizen workers who are not lawfully
12 present in the United States, including—

13 (A) workplace injuries, including repetitive
14 musculoskeletal injuries, of those individuals;

15 (B) psychological and mental health condi-
16 tions of those individuals;

17 (C) exposure of those individuals to chemi-
18 cals or other potential carcinogens and repro-
19 ductive toxins; and

20 (D) any physical or mental abuse, includ-
21 ing sexual harassment, of those individuals by
22 coworkers or managers.

23 (2) The racial demographics and use of tem-
24 porary workers to outsource the responsibility of
25 covered establishments to provide a safe workplace.

1 (3) The racial demographics and use of incar-
2 cerated workers in covered establishments, includ-
3 ing—

4 (A) the extent to which those workers have
5 a choice in working at covered establishments;

6 (B) the use of those workers to outsource
7 the responsibility of covered establishments to
8 provide a safe workplace;

9 (C) the use of those workers to outsource
10 the responsibility of covered establishments to
11 provide fair compensation; and

12 (D) the use of those workers by covered es-
13 tablishments to externalize employee cost.

14 (4) The racial demographics and use of noncit-
15 izen workers admitted to the United States as non-
16 immigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b)
17 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
18 1101(a)(15)(H)(ii)(b)) or as refugees under section
19 207 of that Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) at covered estab-
20 lishments, including—

21 (A) the extent to which predatory prac-
22 tices, such as limiting the ability of those work-
23 ers to choose and move between competing or-
24 ganizations, are utilized by covered establish-
25 ments with respect to those workers;

1 (B) the extent to which those workers are
2 unable to speak out for fear of retaliation; and

3 (C) the extent to which there is full trans-
4 parency about the nature of employment of
5 those workers prior to being hired.

6 (5) The racial demographics and use of noncit-
7 izen workers who are not lawfully present in the
8 United States at covered establishments, including—

9 (A) the extent to which those workers are
10 unable to speak out for fear of retaliation; and

11 (B) whether any collusion between Federal
12 immigration offices and covered establishments
13 have the effect of intimidating and silencing
14 those workers.

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