

113TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 859

To rescind certain excess conference costs from any agency that overspends on conferences, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2013

Mr. JORDAN (for himself and Ms. SPEIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To rescind certain excess conference costs from any agency that overspends on conferences, 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 “Taxpayers’ Conference  
5       Overspending Prevention Act” or the “Taxpayers’ COP  
6       Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REPORT AND RESCISSION OF EXCESS CONFERENCE**

2 **COSTS.**

3 (a) REPORT.—Not later than October 31 of each fis-  
4 cal year, each executive agency shall submit to the Con-  
5 gress a report listing the amount of funds that such agen-  
6 cy obligated for conferences in the previous fiscal year.  
7 The funds described in the report shall include pre-plan-  
8 ning, travel, and subsistence costs.

9 (b) RESCISSION.—On the date that is 30 days after  
10 the date a report is submitted by an executive agency  
11 under subsection (a), from the unobligated funds made  
12 available to such agency in the current fiscal year for con-  
13 ferences (including pre-planning, travel, and subsistence  
14 costs), there is rescinded the total amount by which the  
15 total costs for any conference described in such report ex-  
16 ceeds \$3,000 per agency employee attending such con-  
17 ference, or the total amount by which the costs for any  
18 conference described in such report exceeds \$600 per day  
19 per agency employee attending such conference, whichever  
20 is higher.

21 (c) EXCEPTION FOR CRITICAL FOREIGN TRAVEL.—

22 (1) CERTIFICATION.—The rescission required  
23 under subsection (b) shall not apply to amounts de-  
24 scribed in a report that are greater than the limits  
25 provided in such subsection if—

1 (A) the head of the applicable executive  
2 agency certifies in writing to the Director of the  
3 Office of Management and Budget that the  
4 amounts were for foreign travel and that such  
5 travel was critical to the agency's mission; and

6 (B) the Director determines that such cer-  
7 tification is valid.

8 (2) REPORT.—Any determination by the Direc-  
9 tor under paragraph (1) shall be included in the re-  
10 port submitted under subsection (a).

11 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

12 (1) the term “Director” means the Director of  
13 the Office of Management and Budget;

14 (2) the term “executive agency” has the mean-  
15 ing given such term in section 105 of title 5, United  
16 States Code; and

17 (3) the term “conference” means a meeting, re-  
18 treat, seminar, symposium, or event that—

19 (A) is held for consultation, education, dis-  
20 cussion, or training; and

21 (B) is not held entirely at a Government  
22 facility.

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