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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To provide loans to employees of the Federal Government and the government of the District of Columbia affected by a Government shutdown, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. COX of California introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide loans to employees of the Federal Government and the government of the District of Columbia affected by a Government shutdown, 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 “Immediate Financial
5 Relief for Federal Employees Act”.

1 (1) REPAYMENT THROUGH GARNISHMENT.—

2 With respect to an individual who was provided a
3 loan under subsection (a), when such individual is
4 no longer an employee affected by a Government
5 shutdown, the employer of the individual shall gar-
6 nish 100 percent of the individual's pay with respect
7 to the applicable pay period, and transfer such
8 amounts to the Secretary as repayment on the loan
9 provided to the individual under subsection (a), until
10 the loan is repaid in full.

11 (2) ADDITIONAL REPAYMENT.—The Secretary
12 shall issue regulations to provide for a repayment
13 process for loans provided under subsection (a) with
14 respect to which the garnishment requirement under
15 paragraph (1) will not provide for the full repayment
16 of the loan.

17 (e) CLARIFICATION.—Any loan provided under sub-
18 section (a) shall not—

19 (1) be treated as basic pay or annual pay of an
20 employee for purposes of title 5, United States Code;
21 or

22 (2) be counted for purposes of determining the
23 amount of backpay owed to such employee under the
24 Government Employee Fair Treatment Act of 2019
25 or any other provision of law.

1 (f) AUTHORITY TO MAKE LOANS AND PAY FOR AD-
2 MINISTRATIVE COSTS.—There are hereby made available
3 to the Secretary from amounts in the general fund of the
4 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may
5 be necessary to provide the loans described under sub-
6 section (a) and to pay for the administrative costs of car-
7 rying out this section.

8 (g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

9 (1) EMPLOYEE AFFECTED BY A GOVERNMENT
10 SHUTDOWN.—The term “employee affected by a
11 Government shutdown” means—

12 (A) any employee of a Federal agency with
13 respect to which appropriations have lapsed for
14 a period equal to or longer than 15 consecutive
15 days beginning on or after December 22, 2018;
16 and

17 (B) any employee of an office of the gov-
18 ernment of the District of Columbia with re-
19 spect to which appropriations have so lapsed.

20 (2) EMPLOYER.—With respect to an individual
21 who is provided a loan under subsection (a), the
22 term “employer” means the Federal agency or office
23 of the government of the District of Columbia that
24 employs such individual on the date the individual

1 became an employee affected by a Government shut-
2 down.

3 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
4 the Secretary of the Treasury.