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## AN ACT

To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, 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 “Paycheck Fairness  
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Women have entered the workforce in  
2 record numbers over the past 50 years.

3           (2) Despite the enactment of the Equal Pay Act  
4 of 1963, many women continue to earn significantly  
5 lower pay than men for equal work. These pay dis-  
6 parities exist in both the private and governmental  
7 sectors. Pay disparities are especially severe for  
8 women and girls of color.

9           (3) In many instances, the pay disparities can  
10 only be due to continued intentional discrimination  
11 or the lingering effects of past discrimination. After  
12 controlling for educational attainment, occupation,  
13 industry, union status, race, ethnicity, and labor  
14 force experience roughly 40 percent of the pay gap  
15 remains unexplained.

16           (4) The existence of such pay disparities—

17               (A) depresses the wages of working fami-  
18 lies who rely on the wages of all members of the  
19 family to make ends meet;

20               (B) undermines women’s retirement secu-  
21 rity, which is often based on earnings while in  
22 the workforce;

23               (C) prevents women from realizing their  
24 full economic potential, particularly in terms of  
25 labor force participation and attachment;

1 (D) has been spread and perpetuated,  
2 through commerce and the channels and instru-  
3 mentalities of commerce, among the workers of  
4 the several States;

5 (E) burdens commerce and the free flow of  
6 goods in commerce;

7 (F) constitutes an unfair method of com-  
8 petition in commerce;

9 (G) tends to cause labor disputes, as evi-  
10 denced by the tens of thousands of charges filed  
11 with the Equal Employment Opportunity Com-  
12 mission against employers between 2010 and  
13 2016;

14 (H) interferes with the orderly and fair  
15 marketing of goods in commerce; and

16 (I) in many instances, may deprive workers  
17 of equal protection on the basis of sex in viola-  
18 tion of the 5th and 14th Amendments to the  
19 Constitution.

20 (5)(A) Artificial barriers to the elimination of  
21 discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis  
22 of sex continue to exist decades after the enactment  
23 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C.  
24 201 et seq.) and the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42  
25 U.S.C. 2000a et seq.).

1           (B) These barriers have resulted, in significant  
2           part, because the Equal Pay Act of 1963 has not  
3           worked as Congress originally intended. Improve-  
4           ments and modifications to the law are necessary to  
5           ensure that the Act provides effective protection to  
6           those subject to pay discrimination on the basis of  
7           their sex.

8           (C) Elimination of such barriers would have  
9           positive effects, including—

10                   (i) providing a solution to problems in the  
11                   economy created by unfair pay disparities;

12                   (ii) substantially reducing the number of  
13                   working women earning unfairly low wages,  
14                   thereby reducing the dependence on public as-  
15                   sistance;

16                   (iii) promoting stable families by enabling  
17                   all family members to earn a fair rate of pay;

18                   (iv) remedying the effects of past discrimi-  
19                   nation on the basis of sex and ensuring that in  
20                   the future workers are afforded equal protection  
21                   on the basis of sex; and

22                   (v) ensuring equal protection pursuant to  
23                   Congress' power to enforce the 5th and 14th  
24                   Amendments to the Constitution.

1           (6) The Department of Labor and the Equal  
2       Employment Opportunity Commission carry out  
3       functions to help ensure that women receive equal  
4       pay for equal work.

5           (7) The Department of Labor is responsible  
6       for—

7                (A) collecting and making publicly avail-  
8       able information about women’s pay;

9                (B) ensuring that companies receiving  
10      Federal contracts comply with anti-discrimina-  
11      tion affirmative action requirements of Execu-  
12      tive Order 11246 (relating to equal employment  
13      opportunity);

14               (C) disseminating information about wom-  
15      en’s rights in the workplace;

16               (D) helping women who have been victims  
17      of pay discrimination obtain a remedy; and

18               (E) investigating and prosecuting systemic  
19      gender based pay discrimination involving gov-  
20      ernment contractors.

21           (8) The Equal Employment Opportunity Com-  
22      mission is the primary enforcement agency for  
23      claims made under the Equal Pay Act of 1963, and  
24      issues regulations and guidance on appropriate in-  
25      terpretations of the law.

1           (9) Vigorous implementation by the Depart-  
 2           ment of Labor and the Equal Employment Oppor-  
 3           tunity Commission, increased information as a result  
 4           of the amendments made by this Act, wage data,  
 5           and more effective remedies, will ensure that women  
 6           are better able to recognize and enforce their rights.

7           (10) Certain employers have already made  
 8           great strides in eradicating unfair pay disparities in  
 9           the workplace and their achievements should be rec-  
 10          ognized.

11 **SEC. 3. ENHANCED ENFORCEMENT OF EQUAL PAY RE-**  
 12 **QUIREMENTS.**

13          (a) BONA FIDE FACTOR DEFENSE AND MODIFICA-  
 14          TION OF SAME ESTABLISHMENT REQUIREMENT.—Section  
 15          6(d)(1) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29  
 16          U.S.C. 206(d)(1)) is amended—

17               (1) by striking “No employer having” and in-  
 18               serting “(A) No employer having”;

19               (2) by striking “any other factor other than  
 20               sex” and inserting “a bona fide factor other than  
 21               sex, such as education, training, or experience”; and

22               (3) by inserting at the end the following:

23               “(B) The bona fide factor defense described in sub-  
 24          paragraph (A)(iv) shall apply only if the employer dem-  
 25          onstrates that such factor (i) is not based upon or derived

1 from a sex-based differential in compensation; (ii) is job-  
 2 related with respect to the position in question; (iii) is con-  
 3 sistent with business necessity; and (iv) accounts for the  
 4 entire differential in compensation at issue. Such defense  
 5 shall not apply where the employee demonstrates that an  
 6 alternative employment practice exists that would serve  
 7 the same business purpose without producing such dif-  
 8 ferential and that the employer has refused to adopt such  
 9 alternative practice.

10 “(C) For purposes of subparagraph (A), employees  
 11 shall be deemed to work in the same establishment if the  
 12 employees work for the same employer at workplaces lo-  
 13 cated in the same county or similar political subdivision  
 14 of a State. The preceding sentence shall not be construed  
 15 as limiting broader applications of the term ‘establish-  
 16 ment’ consistent with rules prescribed or guidance issued  
 17 by the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.”.

18 (b) NONRETALIATION PROVISION.—Section 15 of the  
 19 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 215) is  
 20 amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)—

22 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “em-  
 23 ployee has filed” and all that follows and insert-  
 24 ing “employee—

1           “(A) has made a charge or filed any com-  
2           plaint or instituted or caused to be instituted  
3           any investigation, proceeding, hearing, or action  
4           under or related to this Act, including an inves-  
5           tigation conducted by the employer, or has tes-  
6           tified or is planning to testify or has assisted or  
7           participated in any manner in any such inves-  
8           tigation, proceeding, hearing or action, or has  
9           served or is planning to serve on an industry  
10          committee; or

11           “(B) has inquired about, discussed, or dis-  
12          closed the wages of the employee or another  
13          employee (such as by inquiring or discussing  
14          with the employer why the wages of the em-  
15          ployee are set at a certain rate or salary);”;

16           (B) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-  
17          riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

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

19           “(6) to require an employee to sign a contract  
20          or waiver that would prohibit the employee from dis-  
21          closing information about the employee’s wages.”;  
22          and

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

24           “(c) Subsection (a)(3)(B) shall not apply to instances  
25          in which an employee who has access to the wage informa-



1 tion of other employees as a part of such employee’s essen-  
2 tial job functions discloses the wages of such other employ-  
3 ees to individuals who do not otherwise have access to such  
4 information, unless such disclosure is in response to a  
5 complaint or charge or in furtherance of an investigation,  
6 proceeding, hearing, or action under section 6(d), includ-  
7 ing an investigation conducted by the employer. Nothing  
8 in this subsection shall be construed to limit the rights  
9 of an employee provided under any other provision of  
10 law.”.

11 (c) ENHANCED PENALTIES.—Section 16(b) of the  
12 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216(b)) is  
13 amended—

14 (1) by inserting after the first sentence the fol-  
15 lowing: “Any employer who violates section 6(d)  
16 shall additionally be liable for such compensatory  
17 damages, or, where the employee demonstrates that  
18 the employer acted with malice or reckless indiffer-  
19 ence, punitive damages as may be appropriate, ex-  
20 cept that the United States shall not be liable for  
21 punitive damages.”;

22 (2) in the sentence beginning “An action to”,  
23 by striking “the preceding sentences” and inserting  
24 “any of the preceding sentences of this subsection”;

1           (3) in the sentence beginning “No employees  
2       shall”, by striking “No employees” and inserting  
3       “Except with respect to class actions brought to en-  
4       force section 6(d), no employee”;

5           (4) by inserting after the sentence referred to  
6       in paragraph (3), the following: “Notwithstanding  
7       any other provision of Federal law, any action  
8       brought to enforce section 6(d) may be maintained  
9       as a class action as provided by the Federal Rules  
10      of Civil Procedure.”; and

11          (5) in the sentence beginning “The court in”—

12                (A) by striking “in such action” and in-  
13                serting “in any action brought to recover the li-  
14                ability prescribed in any of the preceding sen-  
15                tences of this subsection”; and

16                (B) by inserting before the period the fol-  
17                lowing: “, including expert fees”.

18      (d) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—Section 16(c) of the  
19 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 216(c)) is  
20 amended—

21          (1) in the first sentence—

22                (A) by inserting “or, in the case of a viola-  
23                tion of section 6(d), additional compensatory or  
24                punitive damages, as described in subsection  
25                (b),” before “and the agreement”; and

1 (B) by inserting before the period the fol-  
 2 lowing: “, or such compensatory or punitive  
 3 damages, as appropriate”;

4 (2) in the second sentence, by inserting before  
 5 the period the following: “and, in the case of a viola-  
 6 tion of section 6(d), additional compensatory or pu-  
 7 nitive damages, as described in subsection (b)”;

8 (3) in the third sentence, by striking “the first  
 9 sentence” and inserting “the first or second sen-  
 10 tence”; and

11 (4) in the sixth sentence—

12 (A) by striking “commenced in the case”  
 13 and inserting “commenced—  
 14 “(1) in the case”;

15 (B) by striking the period and inserting “;  
 16 or”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(2) in the case of a class action brought to en-  
 19 force section 6(d), on the date on which the indi-  
 20 vidual becomes a party plaintiff to the class action.”.

21 **SEC. 4. TRAINING.**

22 The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission  
 23 and the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs,  
 24 subject to the availability of funds appropriated under sec-  
 25 tion 11, shall provide training to Commission employees

1 and affected individuals and entities on matters involving  
2 discrimination in the payment of wages.

3 **SEC. 5. NEGOTIATION SKILLS TRAINING.**

4 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor,  
6 after consultation with the Secretary of Education,  
7 is authorized to establish and carry out a grant pro-  
8 gram.

9 (2) GRANTS.—In carrying out the program, the  
10 Secretary of Labor may make grants on a competi-  
11 tive basis to eligible entities to carry out negotiation  
12 skills training programs for the purposes of address-  
13 ing pay disparities, including through outreach to  
14 women and girls.

15 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to re-  
16 ceive a grant under this subsection, an entity shall  
17 be a public agency, such as a State, a local govern-  
18 ment in a metropolitan statistical area (as defined  
19 by the Office of Management and Budget), a State  
20 educational agency, or a local educational agency, a  
21 private nonprofit organization, or a community-  
22 based organization.

23 (4) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a  
24 grant under this subsection, an entity shall submit  
25 an application to the Secretary of Labor at such

1 time, in such manner, and containing such informa-  
2 tion as the Secretary of Labor may require.

3 (5) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity that receives a  
4 grant under this subsection shall use the funds made  
5 available through the grant to carry out an effective  
6 negotiation skills training program for the purposes  
7 described in paragraph (2).

8 (b) INCORPORATING TRAINING INTO EXISTING PRO-  
9 GRAMS.—The Secretary of Labor and the Secretary of  
10 Education shall issue regulations or policy guidance that  
11 provides for integrating the negotiation skills training, to  
12 the extent practicable, into programs authorized under—

13 (1) in the case of the Secretary of Education,  
14 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
15 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins  
16 Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20  
17 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), the Higher Education Act of  
18 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), and other programs  
19 carried out by the Department of Education that the  
20 Secretary of Education determines to be appro-  
21 priate; and

22 (2) in the case of the Secretary of Labor, the  
23 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29  
24 U.S.C. 3101 et seq.), and other programs carried

1 out by the Department of Labor that the Secretary  
2 of Labor determines to be appropriate.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the  
4 date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter,  
5 the Secretary of Labor, in consultation with the Secretary  
6 of Education, shall prepare and submit to Congress a re-  
7 port describing the activities conducted under this section  
8 and evaluating the effectiveness of such activities in  
9 achieving the purposes of this section.

10 **SEC. 6. RESEARCH, EDUCATION, AND OUTREACH.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after  
12 the date of enactment of this Act, and periodically there-  
13 after, the Secretary of Labor shall conduct studies and  
14 provide information to employers, labor organizations, and  
15 the general public concerning the means available to elimi-  
16 nate pay disparities between men and women (including  
17 women who are Asian American, Black or African-Amer-  
18 ican, Hispanic American or Latino, Native American or  
19 Alaska Native, Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and  
20 White American), including—

21 (1) conducting and promoting research to de-  
22 velop the means to correct expeditiously the condi-  
23 tions leading to the pay disparities, with specific at-  
24 tention paid to women and girls from historically  
25 underrepresented and minority groups;

1           (2) publishing and otherwise making available  
2           to employers, labor organizations, professional asso-  
3           ciations, educational institutions, the media, and the  
4           general public the findings resulting from studies  
5           and other materials, relating to eliminating the pay  
6           disparities;

7           (3) sponsoring and assisting State, local, and  
8           community informational and educational programs;

9           (4) providing information to employers, labor  
10          organizations, professional associations, and other  
11          interested persons on the means of eliminating the  
12          pay disparities; and

13          (5) recognizing and promoting the achievements  
14          of employers, labor organizations, and professional  
15          associations that have worked to eliminate the pay  
16          disparities.

17          (b) REPORT ON GENDER PAY GAP IN TEENAGE  
18          LABOR FORCE.—

19                (1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one  
20                year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the  
21                Secretary of Labor, acting through the Director of  
22                the Women’s Bureau and in coordination with the  
23                Commissioner of Labor Statistics, shall—

24                    (A) submit to Congress a report on the  
25                    gender pay gap in the teenage labor force; and

1 (B) make the report available on a publicly  
2 accessible website of the Department of Labor.

3 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report under subsection  
4 (a) shall include the following:

5 (A) An examination of trends and potential  
6 solutions relating to the teenage gender pay  
7 gap.

8 (B) An examination of how the teenage  
9 gender pay gap potentially translates into  
10 greater wage gaps in the overall labor force.

11 (C) An examination of overall lifetime  
12 earnings and losses for informal and formal  
13 jobs for women, including women of color.

14 (D) An examination of the teenage gender  
15 pay gap, including a comparison of the average  
16 amount earned by males and females, respec-  
17 tively, in informal jobs, such as babysitting and  
18 other freelance jobs, as well as formal jobs,  
19 such as retail, restaurant, and customer service.

20 (E) A comparison of —

21 (i) the types of tasks typically per-  
22 formed by women from the teenage years  
23 through adulthood within certain informal  
24 jobs, such as babysitting and other free-



1 lance jobs, and formal jobs, such as retail,  
2 restaurant, and customer service; and

3 (ii) the types of tasks performed by  
4 younger males in such positions.

5 (F) Interviews and surveys with workers  
6 and employers relating to early gender-based  
7 pay discrepancies.

8 (G) Recommendations for—

9 (i) addressing pay inequality for  
10 women from the teenage years through  
11 adulthood, including such women of color;

12 (ii) addressing any disadvantages ex-  
13 perience by young women with respect to  
14 work experience and professional develop-  
15 ment;

16 (iii) the development of standards and  
17 best practices for workers and employees  
18 to ensure better pay for young women and  
19 the prevention of early inequalities in the  
20 workplace; and

21 (iv) expanding awareness for teenage  
22 girls on pay rates and employment rights  
23 in order to reduce greater inequalities in  
24 the overall labor force.

1 **SEC. 7. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL AWARD FOR**  
2 **PAY EQUITY IN THE WORKPLACE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established the Secretary  
4 of Labor’s National Award for Pay Equity in the Work-  
5 place, which shall be awarded, on an annual basis, to an  
6 employer to encourage proactive efforts to comply with  
7 section 6(d) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29  
8 U.S.C. 206(d)), as amended by this Act.

9 (b) CRITERIA FOR QUALIFICATION.—The Secretary  
10 of Labor shall set criteria for receipt of the award, includ-  
11 ing a requirement that an employer has made substantial  
12 effort to eliminate pay disparities between men and  
13 women, and deserves special recognition as a consequence  
14 of such effort. The Secretary shall establish procedures for  
15 the application and presentation of the award.

16 (c) BUSINESS.—In this section, the term “employer”  
17 includes—

18 (1)(A) a corporation, including a nonprofit cor-  
19 poration;

20 (B) a partnership;

21 (C) a professional association;

22 (D) a labor organization; and

23 (E) a business entity similar to an entity de-  
24 scribed in any of subparagraphs (A) through (D);

25 (2) an entity carrying out an education referral  
26 program, a training program, such as an apprentice-

1 ship or management training program, or a similar  
2 program; and

3 (3) an entity carrying out a joint program,  
4 formed by a combination of any entities described in  
5 paragraph (1) or (2).

6 **SEC. 8. COLLECTION OF PAY INFORMATION BY THE EQUAL**  
7 **EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION.**

8 Section 709 of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42  
9 U.S.C. 2000e–8) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
10 lowing:

11 “(f)(1) Not later than 18 months after the date of  
12 enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall pro-  
13 vide for the collection from employers of compensation  
14 data and other employment-related data (including hiring,  
15 termination, and promotion data) disaggregated by the  
16 sex, race, and ethnic identity of employees.

17 “(2) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Commission  
18 shall have as its primary consideration the most effective  
19 and efficient means for enhancing the enforcement of Fed-  
20 eral laws prohibiting pay discrimination. For this purpose,  
21 the Commission shall consider factors including the im-  
22 position of burdens on employers, the frequency of required  
23 reports (including the size of employers required to pre-  
24 pare reports), appropriate protections for maintaining

1 data confidentiality, and the most effective format to re-  
2 port such data.

3 “(3)(A) For each 12-month reporting period for an  
4 employer, the compensation data collected under para-  
5 graph (1) shall include, for each range of taxable com-  
6 pensation described in subparagraph (B), disaggregated  
7 by the categories described in subparagraph (E)—

8 “(i) the number of employees of the employer  
9 who earn taxable compensation in an amount that  
10 falls within such taxable compensation range; and

11 “(ii) the total number of hours worked by such  
12 employees.

13 “(B) Subject to adjustment under subparagraph (C),  
14 the taxable compensation ranges described in this sub-  
15 paragraph are as follows:

16 “(i) Not more than \$19,239.

17 “(ii) Not less than \$19,240 and not more than  
18 \$24,439.

19 “(iii) Not less than \$24,440 and not more than  
20 \$30,679.

21 “(iv) Not less than \$30,680 and not more than  
22 \$38,999.

23 “(v) Not less than \$39,000 and not more than  
24 \$49,919.

1           “(vi) Not less than \$49,920 and not more than  
2       \$62,919.

3           “(vii) Not less than \$62,920 and not more than  
4       \$80,079.

5           “(viii) Not less than \$80,080 and not more  
6       than \$101,919.

7           “(ix) Not less than \$101,920 and not more  
8       than \$128,959.

9           “(x) Not less than \$128,960 and not more than  
10       \$163,799.

11          “(xi) Not less than \$163,800 and not more  
12       than \$207,999.

13          “(xii) Not less than \$208,000.

14          “(C) The Commission may adjust the taxable com-  
15       pensation ranges under subparagraph (B)—

16           “(i) if the Commission determines that such ad-  
17       justment is necessary to enhance enforcement of  
18       Federal laws prohibiting pay discrimination; or

19           “(ii) for inflation, in consultation with the Bu-  
20       reau of Labor Statistics.

21          “(D) In collecting data described in subparagraph  
22       (A)(ii), the Commission shall provide that, with respect  
23       to an employee who the employer is not required to com-  
24       pensate for overtime employment under section 7 of the

1 Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 207), an  
2 employer may report—

3 “(i) in the case of a full-time employee, that  
4 such employee works 40 hours per week, and in the  
5 case of a part-time employee, that such employee  
6 works 20 hours per week; or

7 “(ii) the actual number of hours worked by  
8 such employee.

9 “(E) The categories described in this subparagraph  
10 shall be determined by the Commission and shall in-  
11 clude—

12 “(i) race;

13 “(ii) ethnic identity;

14 “(iii) sex; and

15 “(iv) job categories, including the job categories  
16 described in the instructions for the Equal Employ-  
17 ment Opportunity Employer Information Report  
18 EEO–1, as in effect on the date of the enactment  
19 of this subsection.

20 “(F) The Commission shall use the compensation  
21 data collected under paragraph (1)—

22 “(i) to enhance—

23 “(I) the investigation of charges filed  
24 under section 706 or section 6(d) of the Fair

1 Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C.  
2 206(d)); and

3 “(II) the allocation of resources to inves-  
4 tigate such charges; and

5 “(ii) for any other purpose that the Commission  
6 determines appropriate.

7 “(G) The Commission shall annually make publicly  
8 available aggregate compensation data collected under  
9 paragraph (1) for the categories described in subpara-  
10 graph (E), disaggregated by industry, occupation, and  
11 core based statistical area (as defined by the Office of  
12 Management and Budget).

13 “(4) The compensation data under paragraph (1)  
14 shall be collected from each employer that—

15 “(A) is a private employer that has 100 or  
16 more employees, including such an employer that is  
17 a contractor with the Federal Government, or a sub-  
18 contractor at any tier thereof; or

19 “(B) the Commission determines appropriate.”.

20 **SEC. 9. REINSTATEMENT OF PAY EQUITY PROGRAMS AND**  
21 **PAY EQUITY DATA COLLECTION.**

22 (a) BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS DATA COLLEC-  
23 TION.—The Commissioner of Labor Statistics shall con-  
24 tinue to collect data on women workers in the Current  
25 Employment Statistics survey.

1 (b) OFFICE OF FEDERAL CONTRACT COMPLIANCE  
2 PROGRAMS INITIATIVES.—The Director of the Office of  
3 Federal Contract Compliance Programs shall ensure that  
4 employees of the Office—

5 (1)(A) shall use the full range of investigatory  
6 tools at the Office’s disposal, including pay grade  
7 methodology;

8 (B) in considering evidence of possible com-  
9 pensation discrimination—

10 (i) shall not limit its consideration to a  
11 small number of types of evidence; and

12 (ii) shall not limit its evaluation of the evi-  
13 dence to a small number of methods of evalu-  
14 ating the evidence; and

15 (C) shall not require a multiple regression anal-  
16 ysis or anecdotal evidence for a compensation dis-  
17 crimination case;

18 (2) for purposes of its investigative, compliance,  
19 and enforcement activities, shall define “similarly  
20 situated employees” in a way that is consistent with  
21 and not more stringent than the definition provided  
22 in item 1 of subsection A of section 10–III of the  
23 Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Com-  
24 pliance Manual (2000), and shall consider only fac-



1       tors that the Office’s investigation reveals were used  
2       in making compensation decisions; and

3           (3) shall implement a survey to collect com-  
4       pensation data and other employment-related data  
5       (including hiring, termination, and promotion data)  
6       and designate not less than half of all nonconstruc-  
7       tion contractor establishments each year to prepare  
8       and file such survey, and shall review and utilize the  
9       responses to such survey to identify contractor es-  
10      tablishments for further evaluation and for other en-  
11      forcement purposes as appropriate.

12      (c) DEPARTMENT OF LABOR DISTRIBUTION OF  
13      WAGE DISCRIMINATION INFORMATION.—The Secretary of  
14      Labor shall make readily available (in print, on the De-  
15      partment of Labor website, and through any other forum  
16      that the Department may use to distribute compensation  
17      discrimination information), accurate information on com-  
18      pensation discrimination, including statistics, explanations  
19      of employee rights, historical analyses of such discrimina-  
20      tion, instructions for employers on compliance, and any  
21      other information that will assist the public in under-  
22      standing and addressing such discrimination.

1 **SEC. 10. PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO PROSPECTIVE EM-**  
2 **PLOYEES' SALARY AND BENEFIT HISTORY.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Labor Standards Act of  
4 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) is amended by inserting  
5 after section 7 the following new section:

6 **“SEC. 8. REQUIREMENTS AND PROHIBITIONS RELATING TO**  
7 **WAGE, SALARY, AND BENEFIT HISTORY.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—It shall be an unlawful practice  
9 for an employer to—

10 “(1) rely on the wage history of a prospective  
11 employee in considering the prospective employee for  
12 employment, including requiring that a prospective  
13 employee’s prior wages satisfy minimum or max-  
14 imum criteria as a condition of being considered for  
15 employment;

16 “(2) rely on the wage history of a prospective  
17 employee in determining the wages for such prospec-  
18 tive employee, except that an employer may rely on  
19 wage history if it is voluntarily provided by a pro-  
20 spective employee, after the employer makes an offer  
21 of employment with an offer of compensation to the  
22 prospective employee, to support a wage higher than  
23 the wage offered by the employer;

24 “(3) seek from a prospective employee or any  
25 current or former employer the wage history of the  
26 prospective employee, except that an employer may

1 seek to confirm prior wage information only after an  
2 offer of employment with compensation has been  
3 made to the prospective employee and the prospec-  
4 tive employee responds to the offer by providing  
5 prior wage information to support a wage higher  
6 than that offered by the employer; or

7 “(4) discharge or in any other manner retaliate  
8 against any employee or prospective employee be-  
9 cause the employee or prospective employee—

10 “(A) opposed any act or practice made un-  
11 lawful by this section; or

12 “(B) took an action for which discrimina-  
13 tion is forbidden under section 15(a)(3).

14 “(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘wage  
15 history’ means the wages paid to the prospective employee  
16 by the prospective employee’s current employer or previous  
17 employer.”.

18 (b) PENALTIES.—Section 16 of such Act (29 U.S.C.  
19 216) is amended by adding at the end the following new  
20 subsection:

21 “(f)(1) Any person who violates the provisions of sec-  
22 tion 8 shall—

23 “(A) be subject to a civil penalty of \$5,000 for  
24 a first offense, increased by an additional \$1,000 for  
25 each subsequent offense, not to exceed \$10,000; and

1           “(B) be liable to each employee or prospective  
2       employee who was the subject of the violation for  
3       special damages not to exceed \$10,000 plus attor-  
4       neys’ fees, and shall be subject to such injunctive re-  
5       lief as may be appropriate.

6       “(2) An action to recover the liability described in  
7       paragraph (1)(B) may be maintained against any em-  
8       ployer (including a public agency) in any Federal or State  
9       court of competent jurisdiction by any one or more em-  
10      ployees or prospective employees for and on behalf of—

11           “(A) the employees or prospective employees;  
12      and

13           “(B) other employees or prospective employees  
14      similarly situated.”.

15   **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16       (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—There  
17      are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
18      necessary to carry out this Act.

19       (b) **PROHIBITION ON EARMARKS.**—None of the funds  
20      appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) for purposes of  
21      the grant program in section 5 of this Act may be used  
22      for a congressional earmark as defined in clause 9(e) of  
23      rule XXI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

1 **SEC. 12. SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE.**

2 (a) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This Act and the amend-  
3 ments made by this Act shall take effect on the date that  
4 is 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

5 (b) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MATERIALS.**—The Sec-  
6 retary of Labor and the Commissioner of the Equal Em-  
7 ployment Opportunity Commission shall jointly develop  
8 technical assistance material to assist small enterprises in  
9 complying with the requirements of this Act and the  
10 amendments made by this Act.

11 (c) **SMALL BUSINESSES.**—A small enterprise shall be  
12 exempt from the provisions of this Act, and the amend-  
13 ments made by this Act, to the same extent that such en-  
14 terprise is exempt from the requirements of the Fair  
15 Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) pur-  
16 suant to clauses (i) and (ii) of section 3(s)(1)(A) of such  
17 Act (29 U.S.C. 203(s)(1)(A)).

18 **SEC. 13. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

19 Nothing in this Act, or in any amendments made by  
20 this Act, shall affect the obligation of employers and em-  
21 ployees to fully comply with all applicable immigration  
22 laws, including being subject to any penalties, fines, or  
23 other sanctions.

24 **SEC. 14. SEVERABILITY.**

25 If any provision of this Act, an amendment made by  
26 this Act, or the application of that provision or amend-

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*



**Calendar No. 53**

116<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
1<sup>ST</sup> Session

**H. R. 7**

**AN ACT**

To amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

APRIL 3, 2019

Read the second time and placed on the calendar