

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4142

To provide for a cause of action for any United States national who lost
a relative due to COVID–19.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2023

Mr. SANTOS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide for a cause of action for any United States
national who lost a relative due to COVID–19.

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 “CCP Wrongful Death
5 Accountability Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. CAUSE OF ACTION.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
8 sion of law, a United States national, if an immediate rel-
9 ative of that national has died of COVID–19, may, in a

1 civil action against the Government of China, recover ap-
2 propriate relief.

3 (b) ACTION BY CITIZEN OF UNITED STATES.—Not-
4 withstanding any other provision of law (including chapter
5 85 of title 28, United States Code, commonly referred to
6 as the “Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act”) a citizen of
7 the United States may bring an action for damages in an
8 appropriate district court of the United States against the
9 Government of the People’s Republic of China for harm
10 suffered by the citizen as a result of the COVID–19 pan-
11 demic.

12 (c) PAYMENT BY UNITED STATES.—If an individual
13 is awarded damages in an action under this section, and
14 the Government of the People’s Republic of China has not
15 satisfied such award before the date that is one year after
16 the date on which the damages were awarded, the indi-
17 vidual may seek an order from the court directing the
18 United States to pay such award to the individual. The
19 payment by the United States of any such award shall
20 be deducted from any interest or debt owed by the United
21 States to the People’s Republic of China, or from any
22 amounts made available to provide United States assist-
23 ance to the People’s Republic of China.

24 (d) DEFINITION.—In this section:

1 (1) HARM.—The term “harm” includes costs
2 associated with—

3 (A) the payment of overtime to frontline
4 workers;

5 (B) purchasing masks and sanitizing prod-
6 ucts;

7 (C) purchasing vaccines;

8 (D) research and development;

9 (E) developing COVID–19 testing sites
10 and testing individuals for COVID–19;

11 (F) purchasing medical equipment related
12 to COVID–19;

13 (G) unemployment payments; and

14 (H) laws to provide other assistance during
15 the COVID–19 pandemic.

16 (2) IMMEDIATE RELATIVE.—The term “imme-
17 diate relative” means a brother, sister, mother, or
18 father, either biological or adopted.

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