

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4481

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to prohibit the use of public funds to make payments of awards and settlements in connection with violations of such Act which are committed by employing offices of the House of Representatives and Senate, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 29, 2017

Mr. LANCE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to prohibit the use of public funds to make payments of awards and settlements in connection with violations of such Act which are committed by employing offices of the House of Representatives and Senate, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. PROHIBITING USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO PAY**
2 **SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS FOR CLAIMS**
3 **UNDER CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY**
4 **ACT OF 1995 INVOLVING EMPLOYING OF-**
5 **FICES OF HOUSE AND SENATE.**

6 (a) PROHIBITION.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 415 of the Congres-
8 sional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415)
9 is amended—

10 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “sub-
11 section (c)” and inserting “subsections (c) and
12 (d)”; and

13 (B) by adding at the end the following new
14 subsection:

15 “(d) NO USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PAYMENTS OF
16 AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS INVOLVING EMPLOYING OF-
17 FICES OF HOUSE OR SENATE.—No funds of the Treasury
18 of the United States, including the account described in
19 subsection (a), an account of the House of Representatives
20 or Senate, or any other account of the Federal Govern-
21 ment, may be used for the payment of an award or settle-
22 ment in connection with a violation of section 201(a)(1)
23 by an employing office of the House of Representatives
24 or an employing office of the Senate.”.

25 (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made
26 by paragraph (1) shall apply with respect to settle-

1 ments and awards paid on or after the date of the
2 enactment of this Act.

3 (b) REPORT ON AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY PAID.—

4 (1) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the
5 date of the enactment of this Act, the Office of Com-
6 pliance shall submit to Congress and make available
7 to the public on the Office’s public website a report
8 on all payments made with public funds prior to the
9 date of the enactment of this Act for awards and
10 settlements in connection with violations of section
11 201(a)(1) of the Congressional Accountability Act of
12 1995 by employing offices of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives and employing offices of the Senate, and
14 shall include in the report the following information:

15 (A) The amount paid for each such award
16 or settlement.

17 (B) The source of the public funds used
18 for the award or settlement, without regard to
19 whether the funds were paid from the account
20 described in section 415(a) of such Act (2
21 U.S.C. 1415(a)), an account of the House of
22 Representatives or Senate, or any other account
23 of the Federal Government.

1 (C) The identification of the employing of-
2 fice involved and any individual who committed
3 the violation involved.

4 (2) PROTECTION OF IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUALS
5 RECEIVING AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS.—In pre-
6 paring and submitting the report required under this
7 subsection, the Office of Compliance shall ensure
8 that the identity of any individual who received an
9 award or settlement, or who made an allegation of
10 a violation against an employing office, is not dis-
11 closed.

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