

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5776

To establish a pilot program providing certain individuals with a guaranteed monthly income, to study the effect of a guaranteed monthly income on such individuals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CROCKETT, and Ms. JACOBS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To establish a pilot program providing certain individuals with a guaranteed monthly income, to study the effect of a guaranteed monthly income on such individuals, 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 “Guaranteed Income
5 Pilot Program Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Too many Americans cannot achieve finan-
2 cial stability due to income volatility, the rising cost
3 of living, wage stagnation, and a lack of affordable
4 housing.

5 (2) Real wages have failed to keep pace with in-
6 flation, meaning the purchasing power of American
7 households has not changed in decades.

8 (3) Income volatility, defined as an annual in-
9 come fluctuation of 25 percent or more, impacts mil-
10 lions of American households.

11 (4) Two-thirds of Americans are worried they
12 wouldn't be able to cover their living expenses for
13 just 1 month if they lose their primary source of in-
14 come, while 57 percent of American adults are cur-
15 rently unable to cover a \$1,000 emergency expense.
16 That percentage is higher for millennials at 79 per-
17 cent, and Generation Z at 85 percent, unable to
18 cover an emergency expense.

19 (5) Full-time minimum wage earners cannot af-
20 ford an average 2-bedroom apartment anywhere in
21 the United States.

22 (6) The changing nature of the economy, in-
23 cluding the rise of the gig economy, unemployment
24 risks posed by automation, and the fluctuating na-

1 ture of waged labor, will result in increased income
2 volatility and prohibit upward economic mobility.

3 (7) During the height of COVID-19, the Fed-
4 eral Government provided stimulus checks to the
5 American people in response to the economic hard-
6 ship of the pandemic. The Census Bureau compiled
7 an analysis that showed that material hardship in
8 United States households fell sharply following the
9 passage of the COVID-19 relief bill in late Decem-
10 ber 2020, and the American Rescue Plan in March
11 2021. From December 2020 to April 2021, food in-
12 sufficiently fell by over 40 percent, financial insta-
13 bility fell by 45 percent, and reported adverse men-
14 tal health symptoms fell by 20 percent.

15 **SEC. 3. GUARANTEED INCOME PILOT PROGRAM.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
17 with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue, shall establish
18 and implement a 3-year pilot program (hereinafter re-
19 ferred to as the “program”) to provide a guaranteed
20 monthly income to certain eligible individuals in accord-
21 ance with this section.

22 (b) INCOME SUBSIDY.—

23 (1) SELECTION OF PARTICIPATING ELIGIBLE
24 INDIVIDUALS.—The Secretary, in consultation with
25 the Commissioner and the external partner selected

1 pursuant to subsection (d), shall develop selection
2 criteria that the Secretary will use to select 20,000
3 total eligible individuals for participation in the pro-
4 gram.

5 (2) AMOUNT OF INCOME SUBSIDY.—Of the eli-
6 gible individuals participating in the program,
7 10,000 shall receive a cash payment each month
8 equal to the fair market rent for a 2-bedroom home
9 in the zip code in which the eligible individual re-
10 sides, or a substantially similar amount as deter-
11 mined by the Secretary, in consultation with the
12 Commissioner and the external partner.

13 (3) MONTHLY DISTRIBUTION OF INCOME SUB-
14 SIDY.—Each participating eligible individual shall
15 receive the cash payment on the 15th day of each
16 month.

17 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSIONER OF INTER-
18 NAL REVENUE.—The Commissioner of Internal Revenue
19 shall be responsible for—

20 (1) providing the Secretary access to tax
21 records to administer and study the program under
22 this section;

23 (2) updating the Secretary and the external
24 partner on changes to the taxable income of a par-
25 ticipating eligible individual.

1 (d) EXTERNAL PARTNER.—

2 (1) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select an
3 external partner to provide assistance with the de-
4 sign, administration, and evaluation of the program.

5 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—An organization selected
6 to be the external partner shall have demonstrated
7 experience in—

8 (A) mixed-methods experimental design;
9 and

10 (B) implementing cash-transfer programs.

11 (3) CONFIDENTIALITY.—The external partner,
12 and any employee of the external partner, shall be
13 treated as a Federal employee for purposes of sec-
14 tion 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

15 (4) DATA COLLECTION.—The external partner
16 shall collect data from participating eligible individ-
17 uals as necessary to complete the study and reports
18 required under section 4, and to conduct any addi-
19 tional research as the Secretary determines nec-
20 essary.

21 (e) DISREGARD OF CASH PAYMENTS FOR PURPOSES
22 OF ALL FEDERAL AND FEDERALLY ASSISTED PRO-
23 GRAMS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any
24 payment made to participating eligible individuals under
25 this section shall not be taken into account as income, and

1 shall not be taken into account as resources for a period
2 of 12 months from receipt, for purposes of determining
3 the eligibility of such eligible individual (or any other indi-
4 vidual) for benefits or assistance (or the amount or extent
5 of benefits or assistance) under any Federal program or
6 any State or local program financed in whole or in part
7 with Federal funds.

8 **SEC. 4. STUDY AND REPORT.**

9 (a) **STUDY ON PILOT PROGRAM.**—The Secretary, in
10 collaboration with the Commissioner and the external
11 partner, shall conduct a study on outcomes of the pro-
12 gram.

13 (b) **INTERIM REPORT.**—Not later than 24 months
14 after participating eligible individuals have been begun
15 participating in the program, the Secretary, in consulta-
16 tion with the Commissioner of Internal Revenue and the
17 external partner, shall provide an interim report on the
18 program under section 3 to the Congress.

19 (c) **FINAL REPORT.**—Not later than 12 months after
20 the conclusion of the program under section 3, the Sec-
21 retary, in consultation with the Commissioner of Internal
22 Revenue and the external partner, shall provide a final re-
23 port on the program to the Congress, including—

24 (1) an analysis of—

1 (A) the effect of the monthly income sub-
2 sidy provided in section 3 on—

3 (i) micro-economic outcomes of par-
4 ticipating eligible individuals;

5 (ii) the health of participating eligible
6 individuals;

7 (iii) the social costs of income vola-
8 tility, including connections with income
9 fluctuation and health, housing, education,
10 employment, childcare, and other outcomes
11 as determined appropriate by the Sec-
12 retary; and

13 (B) the feasibility of expanding the pro-
14 gram under section 3 to include a larger num-
15 ber of participants; and

16 (2) the results of interviews and focus groups
17 conducted with consenting participants of the pro-
18 gram.

19 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commis-
22 sioner” means the Commissioner of the Internal
23 Revenue Service.

1 (2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible
2 individual” means an individual taxpayer between
3 the ages of 18–65.

4 (3) EXTERNAL PARTNER.—The term “external
5 partner” means a non-partisan research agency or a
6 non-profit academic institution with expertise in so-
7 cial science experimentation.

8 (4) FAIR MARKET RENT.—The term “fair mar-
9 ket rent” means the applicable fair market rent es-
10 tablished under section 8(c) of the United States
11 Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(e)).

12 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
13 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

14 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
16 this Act \$495,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2024
17 through 2028.

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