

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 539

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri (for himself, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, and Mr. CARBAJAL) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Disaster Recovery Reform Act of 2018 to require the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency to waive certain debts owed to the United States related to covered assistance provided to an individual or household, 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 “Preventing Disaster
5 Revictimization Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FLEXIBILITY.**

2 Section 1216(a) of the Disaster Recovery Reform Act
3 of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a(a)) is amended—

4 (1) by amending paragraph (2)(A) to read as
5 follows:

6 “(A) except as provided in subparagraph
7 (B), shall—

8 “(i) waive a debt owed to the United
9 States related to covered assistance pro-
10 vided to an individual or household if the
11 covered assistance was distributed based
12 on an error by the Agency and such debt
13 shall be construed as a hardship; and

14 “(ii) waive a debt owed to the United
15 States related to covered assistance pro-
16 vided to an individual or household if such
17 assistance is subject to a claim or legal ac-
18 tion, including in accordance with section
19 317 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Re-
20 lief and Emergency Assistance Act (42
21 U.S.C. 5160); and”; and

22 (2) in paragraph (3)(B)—

23 (A) by striking “REMOVAL OF” and insert-
24 ing “REPORT ON”; and

25 (B) in clause (ii) by striking “the authority
26 of the Administrator to waive debt under para-

graph (2) shall no longer be effective” and inserting “the Administrator shall report to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate actions that the Administrator will take to reduce the error rate”.

SEC. 3. REPORT TO CONGRESS.

The Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report containing a description of the internal processes used to make decisions regarding the distribution of covered assistance under section 1216 of the Disaster Recovery and Reform Act of 2018 (42 U.S.C. 5174a) and any changes made to such processes.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record

1 by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, pro-
2 vided that such statement has been submitted prior to the
3 vote on passage.

