

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 463

To provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain individuals,
and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REED, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KING, Mr. LEAHY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. WARREN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. UDALL, Ms. ROSEN, Ms. HIRONO, and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To provide paid family and medical leave benefits to certain
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 “Family and Medical
5 Insurance Leave Act” or the “FAMILY Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In more than two-thirds of families with
2 children, all adults in the household work.
3 43,500,000 people provide unpaid care to family
4 members, and six of every ten family caregivers re-
5 port working at jobs unrelated to their care respon-
6 sibilities. More than half report working full time.
7 An estimated 36,000,000 working age adults live
8 with a family member who has a disability. Without
9 paid family and medical leave, many workers are un-
10 able to take time away from work to care for new-
11 born children, parents and relatives with serious
12 health conditions, or themselves.

13 (2) Both women and men need to be able to
14 take time off work to participate in the care of their
15 children, in the care of seriously ill family members,
16 and to address their own serious health conditions.
17 Yet, a mere 17 percent of civilian workers in the
18 United States have access to paid family leave
19 through their employers, and fewer than 40 percent
20 have access to short-term disability insurance pro-
21 vided by their employer to use for their own ill-
22 nesses.

23 (3) Many workers cannot afford to take unpaid
24 time off work to provide care. According to the De-
25 partment of Labor, nearly half of workers who quali-

1 fied for leave under the Family and Medical Leave
2 Act of 1993 (FMLA) in 2011 were unable to take
3 the leave because they could not afford to take time
4 off without pay. Six in ten workers who took par-
5 tially paid or unpaid leave reported difficulty making
6 ends meet; half of these workers were forced to cut
7 their leaves short due to financial constraints.

8 (4) Only 17 percent of all workers had access
9 to paid family leave in 2017 and it was available to
10 only 5 percent of people working in the lowest pay-
11 ing jobs. Workers who lack paid family and medical
12 leave face lost wages or even job loss when they miss
13 work because of their own illness or to care for an
14 ill child or parent. In this way, access to paid family
15 and medical leave plays a critical role in families' ef-
16 forts to maintain employment and economic security.

17 (5) Caregiving has a high value but also comes
18 at a high cost for family caregivers. Working fami-
19 lies in the United States lose an estimated
20 \$20,600,000,000 in wages each year due to lack of
21 access to paid family and medical leave.

22 (6) The estimated value of unpaid family care
23 provided in 2013 was \$470,000,000,000. Family
24 caregivers face financial, physical and emotional
25 hardships, and in many cases their careers, incomes,

1 and retirement security suffer because of their fam-
2 ily responsibilities.

3 (7) The average worker age 50 and older who
4 leaves the workforce to care for an elderly parent
5 loses more than \$300,000 in earnings and retire-
6 ment income. Working caregivers should not have to
7 risk their family's economic security to fulfill their
8 caregiving obligations.

9 (8) By 2030, one in five United States resi-
10 dents will have reached retirement age, and individ-
11 uals 65 and older are projected to outnumber those
12 under the age of 18 for the first time in the history
13 of the United States. The number of potential family
14 caregivers for each person age 80 and older will fall
15 from 7:1 in 2010 to fewer than 3:1 by 2050. Addi-
16 tionally, the number of people with chronic condi-
17 tions is expected to reach nearly 160,000,000 by
18 2020. Many of these individuals will at some point
19 require family care, and for older workers still in the
20 workforce, many will need time off at some point to
21 address serious health conditions.

22 (9) Ensuring working family caregivers have
23 paid family leave to care for seriously ill or injured
24 older adult relatives could drive down Medicare costs
25 by decreasing recurrences of ailments and re-admit-

1 tance into hospitals. The implementation of Califor-
2 nia's paid family leave insurance program, which has
3 been in effect since 2004, accounted for an 11 per-
4 cent relative decline in elder nursing home usage.

5 (10) Only half of cancer patients and survivors
6 report having access to paid leave, and only four in
7 ten caregivers of those patients are able to take paid
8 leave to help with completing treatment, managing
9 symptoms and side effects, and caring for their own
10 health.

11 (11) Many workers are forced to quickly return
12 to work after the birth or arrival of a child because
13 they have no access to paid family and medical
14 leave. Only half of new mothers take paid leave of
15 any duration after the birth of their first child, and
16 among women with less than a high school education
17 the figure is less than 20 percent—a rate that has
18 not changed in more than half a century. Access to
19 paid leave is even rarer for men, as just 9 percent
20 of private sector workers are employed at worksites
21 that offer paid paternity leave to all male employees.
22 Three out of every four fathers in white-collar jobs
23 took one week or less of leave after their most recent
24 child was born, and nearly 60 percent of low-income
25 fathers reported taking zero weeks of paid time

1 away from work after the birth or adoption of a
2 child.

3 (12) When new mothers have no choice but to
4 return to work without taking leave, children can ex-
5 perience a variety of negative outcomes including
6 higher rates of infant mortality, lower rates of
7 breastfeeding, and lower rates of immunization. Cali-
8 fornia's paid leave program improved child health
9 outcomes, particularly for economically vulnerable
10 children, and improved breastfeeding and vaccina-
11 tion rates.

12 (13) New mothers without sufficient leave expe-
13 rience a higher incidence of physical and mental
14 health concerns, and new mothers with fewer than
15 12 weeks of leave experience elevated risks of
16 postpartum depression. California's paid family leave
17 insurance program increased the number of weeks of
18 leave that women take after childbirth, with larger
19 effects among women in jobs that do not provide
20 paid leave. New Jersey's paid leave program, which
21 has been in effect since 2009, was strongly associ-
22 ated with improvements in new mothers' physical
23 health.

24 (14) A gender-inclusive nationwide paid family
25 and medical leave program would address persistent

1 sex discrimination in the utilization of leave benefits
 2 and reduce the disparity between women and men
 3 regarding who takes time off from work to fulfill
 4 caregiving duties.

5 (15) Many men would like to be more involved
 6 in caregiving and report greater work-family conflict
 7 than ever before. When fathers in two-parent, oppo-
 8 site-sex households take paid leave, their involvement
 9 in caregiving and domestic chores increases, sup-
 10 porting equal co-parenting and making it easier for
 11 women to return to the workforce. In California,
 12 men's use of the State's paid family leave insurance
 13 program to care for a new child has more than dou-
 14 bled since the program's implementation. In Rhode
 15 Island, which implemented its program in 2014, men
 16 took leave at higher rates in the program's first year
 17 than other State programs' first year.

18 (16) Paid family and medical leave promotes
 19 families' financial security and independence, in-
 20 creases worker retention, and promotes savings for
 21 taxpayers. Women who take paid leave after a
 22 child's birth are more likely to be in the labor force
 23 in the 9 to 12 months after a child's birth and to
 24 earn higher wages in the year following their child's
 25 birth. Both men and women who take paid leave

1 after a child's birth are less likely to receive SNAP
2 benefits and other public assistance in the year fol-
3 lowing a child's birth.

4 (17) Without paid medical leave, workers who
5 are ill or injured may return to work before being
6 fully recovered, thus making them susceptible to a
7 relapse or recurrence, and potentially placing addi-
8 tional burdens on the health care system. When a
9 job requires physical stamina or ability, individuals
10 who return to work too early may put themselves or
11 others in jeopardy.

12 (18) A social insurance model of providing paid
13 family leave pioneered and implemented by the
14 States of California, New Jersey, Rhode Island, and
15 New York, and recently passed in the District of Co-
16 lumbia, Washington, and Massachusetts, has worked
17 well for workers, their families, and employers. The
18 overwhelming majority of California employers re-
19 port that the State's program had a positive or neu-
20 tral effect on their business, and businesses surveyed
21 in New Jersey and Rhode Island reported having lit-
22 tle trouble adjusting to the State's law.

23 (19) When workers can care for themselves and
24 their loved ones, employers experience positive im-
25 pacts. In California, where a family leave insurance

1 program has existed for more than a decade, work-
2 ers in low-wage, high-turnover industries are much
3 more likely to return to their jobs after using the
4 program, and 9 out of 10 businesses report positive
5 or neutral effects on profitability and productivity.

6 (20) High-profile employers are increasingly
7 recognizing the value of providing paid leave in re-
8 duced turnover and improved employee morale and
9 productivity, yet access to paid leave remains low
10 across most industries, particularly for low- and
11 middle-income workers. Some of the fastest-growing
12 occupations, such as home health care and service
13 jobs, typically pay low wages and are particularly
14 unlikely to offer paid leave benefits. As of 2018,
15 more than 75 businesses and business leaders have
16 endorsed the need for a strong, inclusive national
17 paid leave policy.

18 (21) Californians have filed nearly 2,810,000
19 paid family leave claims between the implementation
20 of the State's paid family leave program in 2004
21 and November 2017. In New Jersey, more than
22 255,000 claims have been filed over the more than
23 7 years of the program's existence, and in Rhode Is-
24 land, nearly 34,000 claims were filed in the pro-

1 gram's first 3 years. These claims represent valuable
2 care for new children and seriously ill loved ones.

3 (22) Social Security is the Nation's primary so-
4 cial insurance system, with the most complete record
5 of workers' earnings history. It provides retirement
6 assistance and disability benefits currently and,
7 since its creation in 1934, the programs the Social
8 Security Administration administers have been up-
9 dated multiple times to reflect the changing needs of
10 the population, families and the workforce. The sys-
11 tem needs to be changed again now—with appro-
12 priate investments to meet the agency's needs—to
13 reflect today's realities.

14 (23) Researchers at Brandeis University esti-
15 mate that, following enactment of this Act, the share
16 of families falling into financial hardship (earnings
17 below 200 percent of the Federal poverty line) as a
18 result of taking 12 weeks of unpaid leave would be
19 reduced by more than 81 percent.

20 (24) Without a national paid leave policy, the
21 United States is missing out on substantial economic
22 activity, which has been estimated at approximately
23 \$500,000,000,000 by the Department of Labor, as
24 women in particular are held back from partici-
25 pating in the workforce in equal shares.

1 (25) A national paid family and medical leave
2 program has the support of more than eight in ten
3 voters across demographic and party lines.

4 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act—

5 (1) to help working people, including single
6 working parents and workers in dual-earner families,
7 afford to take time away from work to provide care
8 for a family member;

9 (2) to provide workers with a reasonable level
10 of wage replacement during time away from work
11 for a serious health condition, for the birth or adop-
12 tion of a child, for the care of a child, spouse, or
13 parent who has a serious health condition, for the
14 care of an injured servicemember, or for qualifying
15 exigencies arising from the deployment of a service-
16 member;

17 (3) to address sex discrimination, promote the
18 goal of equal employment opportunity for women
19 and men, and to provide relief when employers vio-
20 late the law; and

21 (4) to accomplish the purposes described in
22 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) in a manner that ac-
23 commodates the legitimate interests of employers.

24 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

25 In this Act, the following definitions apply:

1 (1) CAREGIVING DAY.—The term “caregiving
2 day” means, with respect to an individual, a cal-
3 endar day in which the individual engaged in quali-
4 fied caregiving.

5 (2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commis-
6 sioner” means the Commissioner of Social Security.

7 (3) DEPUTY COMMISSIONER.—The term “Dep-
8 uty Commissioner” means the Deputy Commissioner
9 who heads the Office of Paid Family and Medical
10 Leave established under section 4(a).

11 (4) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term “eligible
12 individual” means an individual who is entitled to a
13 benefit under section 5 for a particular month, upon
14 filing an application for such benefit for such month.

15 (5) INITIAL WAITING PERIOD.—The term “ini-
16 tial waiting period” means a period beginning with
17 the first caregiving day of an individual occurring
18 during the individual’s benefit period and ending
19 after the earlier of—

20 (A) the fifth caregiving day of the indi-
21 vidual occurring during the benefit period; or

22 (B) the month preceding the first month in
23 the benefit period during which occur not less
24 than 15 caregiving days of the individual.

1 (6) QUALIFIED CAREGIVING.—The term “quali-
2 fied caregiving” means any activity engaged in by an
3 individual, other than regular employment, for a rea-
4 son for which an eligible employee would be entitled
5 to leave under subparagraphs (A) through (E) of
6 paragraph (1) of section 102(a) of the Family and
7 Medical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a)).

8 (7) SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCOME.—The term
9 “self-employment income” has the same meaning as
10 such term in section 211(b) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
11 411(b)).

12 (8) STATE.—The term “State” means any
13 State of the United States or the District of Colum-
14 bia or any territory or possession of the United
15 States.

16 (9) WAGES.—The term “wages”, except as such
17 term is used in subsection (h)(2) of section 5, has
18 the same meaning as such term in section 209 of the
19 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 409).

20 (10) 60-DAY LIMITATION PERIOD.—The term
21 “60-day limitation period” means a period—

22 (A) beginning with the first caregiving day
23 of an individual occurring during the individ-
24 ual’s benefit period and after the expiration of

1 the individual's 5-day waiting period, if applica-
 2 ble; and

3 (B) ending with the 60th caregiving day of
 4 the individual occurring during the benefit pe-
 5 riod and after the expiration of the 5-day wait-
 6 ing period,
 7 disregarding any caregiving day of the individual oc-
 8 curring during any month in the benefit period after
 9 the first 20 caregiving days of the individual occur-
 10 ring during such month.

11 **SEC. 4. OFFICE OF PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE.**

12 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—There is estab-
 13 lished within the Social Security Administration an office
 14 to be known as the Office of Paid Family and Medical
 15 Leave. The Office shall be headed by a Deputy Commis-
 16 sioner who shall be appointed by the Commissioner.

17 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF DEPUTY COMMIS-
 18 SIONER.—The Commissioner, acting through the Deputy
 19 Commissioner, shall be responsible for—

20 (1) hiring personnel and making employment
 21 decisions with regard to such personnel;

22 (2) issuing such regulations as may be nec-
 23 essary to carry out the purposes of this Act;

1 (3) entering into cooperative agreements with
2 other agencies and departments to ensure the effi-
3 ciency of the administration of the program;

4 (4) determining eligibility for family and med-
5 ical leave insurance benefits under section 5;

6 (5) determining benefit amounts for each
7 month of such eligibility and making timely pay-
8 ments of such benefits to entitled individuals in ac-
9 cordance with such section;

10 (6) establishing and maintaining a system of
11 records relating to the administration of such sec-
12 tion;

13 (7) preventing fraud and abuse relating to such
14 benefits;

15 (8) providing information on request regarding
16 eligibility requirements, the claims process, benefit
17 amounts, maximum benefits payable, notice require-
18 ments, nondiscrimination rights, confidentiality, co-
19 ordination of leave under this Act and other laws,
20 collective bargaining agreements, and employer poli-
21 cies;

22 (9) annually providing employers a notice in-
23 forming employees of the availability of such bene-
24 fits;

1 (10) annually making available to the public a
 2 report that includes the number of individuals who
 3 received such benefits, the purposes for which such
 4 benefits were received, and an analysis of utilization
 5 rates of such benefits by gender, race, ethnicity, and
 6 income levels; and

7 (11) tailoring culturally and linguistically com-
 8 petent education and outreach toward increasing uti-
 9 lization rates of benefits under such section.

10 (c) AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—The Commissioner
 11 shall make available to the Deputy Commissioner such
 12 data as the Commissioner determines necessary to enable
 13 the Deputy Commissioner to effectively carry out the re-
 14 sponsibilities described in subsection (b).

15 **SEC. 5. FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE BENEFIT**
 16 **PAYMENTS.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Every individual who—

18 (1) is insured for disability insurance benefits
 19 (as determined under section 223(c) of the Social
 20 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 423(c))) at the time such
 21 individual's application is filed;

22 (2) has earned income from employment during
 23 the 12 months prior to the month in which the ap-
 24 plication is filed;

1 (3) has filed an application for a family and
 2 medical leave insurance benefit in accordance with
 3 subsection (d); and

4 (4) was engaged in qualified caregiving, or an-
 5 ticipates being so engaged, during the period that
 6 begins 90 days before the date on which such appli-
 7 cation is filed or within 30 days after such date,
 8 shall be entitled to such a benefit for each month in the
 9 benefit period specified in subsection (c), not to exceed 60
 10 caregiving days per benefit period.

11 (b) BENEFIT AMOUNT.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise pro-
 13 vided in this subsection, the benefit amount to which
 14 an individual is entitled under this section for a
 15 month shall be an amount equal to the greater of—

16 (A) the lesser of $\frac{1}{18}$ of the wages and self-
 17 employment income of the individual for the
 18 calendar year in which such wages and self-em-
 19 ployment income are the highest among the
 20 most recent three calendar years, or the max-
 21 imum benefit amount determined under para-
 22 graph (2); or

23 (B) the minimum benefit amount deter-
 24 mined under paragraph (2),

1 multiplied by the quotient (not greater than 1) ob-
 2 tained by dividing the number of caregiving days of
 3 the individual in such month by 20.

4 (2) ANNUAL INCREASE OF MAXIMUM AND MIN-
 5 IMUM BENEFIT AMOUNTS.—

6 (A) For individuals who initially become el-
 7 igible for family and medical leave insurance
 8 benefits in the first full calendar year after the
 9 date of enactment of this Act, the maximum
 10 monthly benefit amount and the minimum
 11 monthly benefit amount shall be \$4,000 and
 12 \$580, respectively.

13 (B) For individuals who initially become el-
 14 igible for family and medical leave insurance
 15 benefits in any calendar year after such first
 16 full calendar year the maximum benefit amount
 17 and the minimum benefit amount shall be, re-
 18 spectively, the product of the corresponding
 19 amount determined with respect to the first cal-
 20 endar year under subparagraph (A) and the
 21 quotient obtained by dividing—

22 (i) the national average wage index
 23 (as defined in section 209(k)(1) of the So-
 24 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 409(k)(1)))
 25 for the second calendar year preceding the

1 calendar year for which the determination
 2 is made, by
 3 (ii) the national average wage index
 4 (as so defined) for 2018.

5 (3) LIMITATIONS ON BENEFITS PAID.—

6 (A) NONPAYABLE WAITING PERIOD.—Any
 7 calendar day during an individual's benefit pe-
 8 riod which occurs before the expiration of an
 9 initial waiting period shall not be taken into ac-
 10 count under this subsection as a caregiving day
 11 of the individual.

12 (B) LIMITATION ON TOTAL BENEFITS
 13 PAID.—Any calendar day during an individual's
 14 benefit period which occurs after the expiration
 15 of a 60-day limitation period shall not be taken
 16 into account under this subsection as a
 17 caregiving day of the individual.

18 (4) REDUCTION IN BENEFIT AMOUNT ON AC-
 19 COUNT OF RECEIPT OF CERTAIN BENEFITS.—A ben-
 20 efit under this section for a month shall be reduced
 21 by the amount, if any, in certain benefits (as deter-
 22 mined under regulations issued by the Commis-
 23 sioner) as may be otherwise received by an indi-
 24 vidual. For purposes of the preceding sentence, cer-
 25 tain benefits include—

(A) periodic benefits on account of such individual's total or partial disability under a workmen's compensation law or plan of the United States or a State; and

(B) periodic benefits on account of an individual's employment status under an unemployment law or plan of the United States or a State.

(5) COORDINATION OF BENEFIT AMOUNT WITH CERTAIN STATE BENEFITS.—A benefit received under this section shall be coordinated, in a manner determined by regulations issued by the Commissioner, with the periodic benefits received from temporary disability insurance or family leave insurance programs under any law or plan of a State, a political subdivision (as that term is used in section 218(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 418(b)(2))), or an instrumentality of two or more States (as that term is used in section 218(g) of such Act of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 418(g))).

(c) BENEFIT PERIOD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the benefit period specified in this subsection shall begin on the 1st day of the 1st month

1 in which the individual meets the criteria specified in
2 paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of subsection (a), and
3 shall end on the date that is 365 days after the 1st
4 day of the benefit period.

5 (2) RETROACTIVE BENEFITS.—In the case of
6 an application for benefits under this section for
7 qualified caregiving in which the individual was en-
8 gaged at any time during the 90-day period pre-
9 ceding the date on which such application is sub-
10 mitted, the benefit period specified in this subsection
11 shall begin on the later of—

12 (A) the 1st day of the 1st month in which
13 the individual engaged in such qualified
14 caregiving; or

15 (B) the 1st day of the 1st month that be-
16 gins during such 90-day period,

17 and shall end on the date that is 365 days after the
18 1st day of the benefit period.

19 (d) APPLICATION.—An application for a family and
20 medical leave insurance benefit shall include—

21 (1) a statement that the individual was engaged
22 in qualified caregiving, or anticipates being so en-
23 gaged, during the period that begins 90 days before
24 the date on which the application is submitted or
25 within 30 days after such date;

1 (2) if the qualified caregiving described in the
 2 statement in paragraph (1) is engaged in by the in-
 3 dividual because of a serious health condition of the
 4 individual or a relative of the individual, a certifi-
 5 cation, issued by the health care provider treating
 6 such serious health condition, that affirms the infor-
 7 mation specified in paragraph (1) and contains such
 8 information as the Commissioner shall specify in
 9 regulations, which shall be no more than the infor-
 10 mation that is required to be stated under section
 11 103(b) of the Family and Medical Leave Act of
 12 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2613(b));

13 (3) if such qualified caregiving is engaged in by
 14 the individual for any other authorized reason, a cer-
 15 tification, issued by a relevant authority determined
 16 under regulations issued by the Commissioner, that
 17 affirms the circumstances giving rise to such reason;
 18 and

19 (4) an attestation from the applicant that his or
 20 her employer has been provided with written notice
 21 of the individual's intention to take family or med-
 22 ical leave, if the individual has an employer, or to
 23 the Commissioner in all other cases.

24 (e) INELIGIBILITY; DISQUALIFICATION.—

1 (1) INELIGIBILITY FOR BENEFIT.—An indi-
2 vidual shall be ineligible for a benefit under this sec-
3 tion for any month for which the individual is enti-
4 tled to—

5 (A) disability insurance benefits under sec-
6 tion 223 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
7 423) or a similar permanent disability program
8 under any law or plan of a State or political
9 subdivision or instrumentality of a State (as
10 such terms are used in section 218 of the Social
11 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 418));

12 (B) monthly insurance benefits under sec-
13 tion 202 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 402) based on
14 such individual's disability (as defined in sec-
15 tion 223(d) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 423(d))); or

16 (C) benefits under title XVI of such Act
17 (42 U.S.C. 1381 et seq.) based on such individ-
18 ual's status as a disabled individual (as deter-
19 mined under section 1614 of such Act (42
20 U.S.C. 1382c)).

21 (2) DISQUALIFICATION.—An individual who has
22 been convicted of a violation under section 208 of
23 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 408) or who has
24 been found to have used false statements to secure
25 benefits under this section, shall be ineligible for

1 benefits under this section for a 1-year period fol-
2 lowing the date of such conviction.

3 (f) REVIEW OF ELIGIBILITY AND BENEFIT PAYMENT
4 DETERMINATIONS.—

5 (1) ELIGIBILITY DETERMINATIONS.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner
7 shall provide notice to an individual applying
8 for benefits under this section of the initial de-
9 termination of eligibility for such benefits, and
10 the estimated benefit amount for a month in
11 which one caregiving day of the individual oc-
12 curs, as soon as practicable after the applica-
13 tion is received.

14 (B) REVIEW.—An individual may request
15 review of an initial adverse determination with
16 respect to such application at any time before
17 the end of the 20-day period that begins on the
18 date notice of such determination is received,
19 except that such 20-day period may be extended
20 for good cause. As soon as practicable after the
21 individual requests review of the determination,
22 the Commissioner shall provide notice to the in-
23 dividual of a final determination of eligibility
24 for benefits under this section.

25 (2) BENEFIT PAYMENT DETERMINATIONS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner
2 shall make any monthly benefit payment to an
3 individual claiming benefits for a month under
4 this section, or provide notice of the reason
5 such payment will not be made if the Commis-
6 sioner determines that the individual is not en-
7 titled to payment for such month, not later
8 than 20 days after the individual's monthly
9 benefit claim report for such month is received.
10 Such monthly report shall be filed with the
11 Commissioner not later than 15 days after the
12 end of each month.

13 (B) REVIEW.—If the Commissioner deter-
14 mines that payment will not be made to an in-
15 dividual for a month, or if the Commissioner
16 determines that payment shall be made based
17 on a number of caregiving days in the month
18 inconsistent with the number of caregiving days
19 in the monthly benefit claim report of the indi-
20 vidual for such month, the individual may re-
21 quest review of such determination at any time
22 before the end of the 20-day period that begins
23 on the date notice of such determination is re-
24 ceived, except that such 20-day period may be
25 extended for good cause. Not later than 20 days

1 after the individual requests review of the deter-
2 mination, the Commissioner shall provide notice
3 to the individual of a final determination of
4 payment for such month, and shall make pay-
5 ment to the individual of any additional amount
6 not included in the initial payment to the indi-
7 vidual for such month to which the Commis-
8 sioner determines the individual is entitled.

9 (3) BURDEN OF PROOF.—An application for
10 benefits under this section and a monthly benefit
11 claim report of an individual shall each be presumed
12 to be true and accurate, unless the Commissioner
13 demonstrates by a preponderance of the evidence
14 that information contained in the application is
15 false.

16 (4) DEFINITION OF MONTHLY BENEFIT CLAIM
17 REPORT.—For purposes of this subsection, the term
18 “monthly benefit claim report” means, with respect
19 to an individual for a month, the individual’s report
20 to the Commissioner of the number of caregiving
21 days of the individual in such month, which shall be
22 filed no later than 15 days after the end of each
23 month.

24 (5) REVIEW.—All final determinations of the
25 Commissioner under this subsection shall be review-

1 able according to the procedures set out in section
2 205 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 405).

3 (g) RELATIONSHIP WITH STATE LAW; EMPLOYER
4 BENEFITS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—This section does not pre-
6 empt or supercede any provision of State or local
7 law that authorizes a State or local municipality to
8 provide paid family and medical leave benefits simi-
9 lar to the benefits provided under this section.

10 (2) GREATER BENEFITS ALLOWED.—Nothing
11 in this Act shall be construed to diminish the obliga-
12 tion of an employer to comply with any contract, col-
13 lective bargaining agreement, or any employment
14 benefit program or plan that provides greater paid
15 leave or other leave rights to employees than the
16 rights established under this Act.

17 (h) PROHIBITED ACTS; ENFORCEMENT.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any
19 person to discharge or in any other manner discrimi-
20 nate against an individual because the individual has
21 applied for, indicated an intent to apply for, or re-
22 ceived family and medical leave insurance benefits.

23 (2) CIVIL ACTION BY AN INDIVIDUAL.—

24 (A) LIABILITY.—Any person who violates
25 paragraph (1) shall be liable to any individual

1 employed by such person who is affected by the
2 violation—

3 (i) for damages equal to the sum of—

4 (I) the amount of—

5 (aa) any wages, salary, em-
6 ployment benefits, or other com-
7 pensation denied or lost to such
8 individual by reason of the viola-
9 tion; or

10 (bb) in a case in which
11 wages, salary, employment bene-
12 fits, or other compensation have
13 not been denied or lost to the in-
14 dividual, any actual monetary
15 losses sustained by the individual
16 as a direct result of the violation,
17 such as the cost of providing
18 care, up to a sum equal to 60
19 calendar days of wages or salary
20 for the individual;

21 (II) the interest on the amount
22 described in subclause (I) calculated
23 at the prevailing rate; and

24 (III) an additional amount as liq-
25 uidated damages equal to the sum of

the amount described in subclause (I) and the interest described in subclause (II), except that if a person who has violated paragraph (1) proves to the satisfaction of the court that the act or omission which violated paragraph (1) was in good faith and that the person had reasonable grounds for believing that the act or omission was not a violation of paragraph (1), such court may, in the discretion of the court, reduce the amount of the liability to the amount and interest determined under subclauses (I) and (II), respectively; and

(ii) for such equitable relief as may be appropriate, including employment, reinstatement, and promotion.

(B) RIGHT OF ACTION.—An action to recover the damages or equitable relief prescribed in subparagraph (A) may be maintained against any person in any Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction by any individual for and on behalf of—

(i) the individual; or

1 (ii) the individual and other individ-
2 uals similarly situated.

3 (C) FEES AND COSTS.—The court in such
4 an action shall, in addition to any judgment
5 awarded to the plaintiff, allow a reasonable at-
6 torney's fee, reasonable expert witness fees, and
7 other costs of the action to be paid by the de-
8 fendant.

9 (D) LIMITATIONS.—The right provided by
10 subparagraph (B) to bring an action by or on
11 behalf of any individual shall terminate—

12 (i) on the filing of a complaint by the
13 Commissioner in an action under para-
14 graph (5) in which restraint is sought of
15 any further delay in the payment of the
16 amount described in subparagraph (A)(I)
17 to such individual by the person respon-
18 sible under subparagraph (A) for the pay-
19 ment; or

20 (ii) on the filing of a complaint by the
21 Commissioner in an action under para-
22 graph (3) in which a recovery is sought of
23 the damages described in subparagraph
24 (A)(I) owing to an individual by a person
25 liable under subparagraph (A),

1 unless the action described in clause (i) or (ii)
2 is dismissed without prejudice on motion of the
3 Commissioner.

4 (3) ACTION BY THE COMMISSIONER.—

5 (A) CIVIL ACTION.—The Commissioner
6 may bring an action in any court of competent
7 jurisdiction to recover the damages described in
8 paragraph (2)(A)(I).

9 (B) SUMS RECOVERED.—Any sums recov-
10 ered by the Commissioner pursuant to subpara-
11 graph (A) shall be held in a special deposit ac-
12 count and shall be paid, on order of the Com-
13 missioner, directly to each individual affected.
14 Any such sums not paid to an individual be-
15 cause of inability to do so within a period of 3
16 years shall be deposited into the Federal Family
17 and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund.

18 (4) LIMITATION.—

19 (A) IN GENERAL.—An action may be
20 brought under this subsection not later than 3
21 years after the date of the last event consti-
22 tuting the alleged violation for which the action
23 is brought.

24 (B) COMMENCEMENT.—An action brought
25 by the Commissioner under this subsection shall

1 be considered to be commenced on the date
2 when the complaint is filed.

3 (5) ACTION FOR INJUNCTION BY COMMIS-
4 SIONER.—The district courts of the United States
5 shall have jurisdiction, for cause shown, in an action
6 brought by the Commissioner—

7 (A) to restrain violations of paragraph (1),
8 including the restraint of any withholding of
9 payment of wages, salary, employment benefits,
10 or other compensation, plus interest, found by
11 the court to be due to an individual; or

12 (B) to award such other equitable relief as
13 may be appropriate, including employment, re-
14 instatement, and promotion.

15 (i) SPECIAL RULE FOR RAILROAD EMPLOYEES.—For
16 purposes of subsection (a)(1), an individual shall be
17 deemed to be insured for disability insurance benefits if
18 the individual would be so insured if the individual's serv-
19 ice as an employee (as defined in the section 1(b) of the
20 Railroad Retirement Act of 1974) after December 31,
21 1936, were included within the meaning of the term “em-
22 ployment” for purposes of title II of the Social Security
23 Act (42 U.S.C. 401 et seq.).

24 (j) DETERMINATION OF WHETHER AN ACTIVITY
25 CONSTITUTES QUALIFIED CAREGIVING.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of determining
 2 whether an activity engaged in by an individual con-
 3 stitutes qualified caregiving under this section—

4 (A) the term “spouse” (as used in section
 5 102(a) of the Family and Medical Leave Act
 6 (29 U.S.C. 2612(a))) includes the individual’s
 7 domestic partner; and

8 (B) the term “son or daughter” (as used
 9 in such section) includes a son or daughter (as
 10 defined in section 101 of such Act) of the indi-
 11 vidual’s domestic partner.

12 (2) DOMESTIC PARTNER.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of para-
 14 graph (1), the term “domestic partner”, with
 15 respect to an individual, means another indi-
 16 vidual with whom the individual is in a com-
 17 mitted relationship.

18 (B) COMMITTED RELATIONSHIP DE-
 19 FINED.—The term “committed relationship”
 20 means a relationship between two individuals
 21 (each at least 18 years of age) in which each
 22 individual is the other individual’s sole domestic
 23 partner and both individuals share responsi-
 24 bility for a significant measure of each other’s
 25 common welfare. The term includes any such

1 relationship between two individuals, including
 2 individuals of the same sex, that is granted
 3 legal recognition by a State or political subdivi-
 4 sion of a State as a marriage or analogous rela-
 5 tionship, including a civil union or domestic
 6 partnership.

7 (k) **APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN SOCIAL SECURITY**
 8 **ACT PROVISIONS.**—The provisions of sections 204, 205,
 9 206, and 208 of the Social Security Act shall apply to
 10 benefit payments authorized by and paid out pursuant to
 11 this section in the same way that such provisions apply
 12 to benefit payments authorized by and paid out pursuant
 13 to title II of such Act.

14 (l) **EFFECTIVE DATE FOR APPLICATIONS.**—Applica-
 15 tions described in this section may be filed beginning 18
 16 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE**
 18 **INSURANCE TRUST FUND.**

19 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is hereby created on the
 20 books of the Treasury of the United States a trust fund
 21 to be known as the “Federal Family and Medical Leave
 22 Insurance Trust Fund”. The Federal Family and Medical
 23 Leave Insurance Trust Fund shall consist of such gifts
 24 and bequests as may be made as provided in section
 25 201(i)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401(i)(1))

1 and such amounts as may be appropriated to, or deposited
2 in, the Federal Family and Medical Leave Insurance
3 Trust Fund as provided in this section.

4 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
6 appropriated to the Federal Family and Medical
7 Leave Insurance Trust Fund out of moneys in the
8 Treasury not otherwise appropriated—

9 (A) for the first three fiscal years begin-
10 ning after the date of enactment of this Act,
11 such sums as may be necessary for the Com-
12 missioner to administer the office established
13 under section 4 and pay the benefits under sec-
14 tion 5;

15 (B) 100 percent of the taxes imposed by
16 sections 3101(c) and 3111(c) of the Internal
17 Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to wages
18 (as defined in section 3121 of such Code) re-
19 ported to the Secretary of the Treasury pursu-
20 ant to subtitle F of such Code, as determined
21 by the Secretary of the Treasury by applying
22 the applicable rate of tax under such sections to
23 such wages;

24 (C) 100 percent of the taxes imposed by
25 section 1401(c) of such Code with respect to

1 self-employment income (as defined in section
2 1402 of such Code) reported to the Secretary of
3 the Treasury on tax returns under subtitle F of
4 such Code, as determined by the Secretary of
5 the Treasury by applying the applicable rate of
6 tax under such section to such self-employment
7 income; and

8 (D) 100 percent of the taxes imposed by
9 sections 3201(c), 3211(c), and 3221(c) of such
10 Code with respect to compensation (as defined
11 in section 3231 of such Code) reported to the
12 Secretary of the Treasury on tax returns under
13 subtitle F of such Code, as determined by the
14 Secretary of the Treasury by applying the ap-
15 plicable rate of tax under such sections to such
16 compensation.

17 (2) REPAYMENT OF INITIAL APPROPRIATION.—

18 Amounts appropriated pursuant to subparagraph
19 (A) of paragraph (1) shall be repaid to the Treasury
20 of the United States not later than 10 years after
21 the first appropriation is made pursuant to such
22 subparagraph.

23 (3) TRANSFER TO TRUST FUND.—The amounts
24 described in paragraph (2) shall be transferred from
25 time to time from the general fund in the Treasury

1 to the Federal Family and Medical Leave Insurance
2 Trust Fund, such amounts to be determined on the
3 basis of estimates by the Secretary of the Treasury
4 of the taxes, specified in such paragraph, paid to or
5 deposited into the Treasury. Proper adjustments
6 shall be made in amounts subsequently transferred
7 to the extent prior estimates were inconsistent with
8 the taxes specified in such paragraph.

9 (c) MANAGEMENT OF TRUST FUND.—The provisions
10 of subsections (c), (d), (e), (f), (i), and (m) of section 201
11 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 401) shall apply with
12 respect to the Federal Family and Medical Leave Insur-
13 ance Trust Fund in the same manner as such provisions
14 apply to the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance
15 Trust Fund and the Disability Insurance Trust Fund.

16 (d) BENEFITS PAID FROM TRUST FUND.—Benefit
17 payments required to be made under section 5 shall be
18 made only from the Federal Family and Medical Leave
19 Insurance Trust Fund.

20 (e) ADMINISTRATION.—There are authorized to be
21 made available for expenditure, out of the Federal Family
22 and Medical Leave Insurance Trust Fund, such sums as
23 may be necessary to pay the costs of the administration
24 of section 5, including start-up costs, technical assistance,
25 outreach, education, evaluation, and reporting.

1 (f) PROHIBITION.—No funds from the Social Secu-
 2 rity Trust Fund or appropriated to the Social Security Ad-
 3 ministration to administer Social Security programs may
 4 be used for Federal Family and Medical Leave Insurance
 5 benefits or administration set forth under this Act.

6 **SEC. 7. INTERNAL REVENUE CODE PROVISIONS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—

8 (1) EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION.—Section 3101
 9 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended—

10 (A) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
 11 section (d), and

12 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
 13 following:

14 “(c) FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other taxes,
 16 there is hereby imposed on the income of every indi-
 17 vidual a tax equal to the applicable percentage of the
 18 wages (as defined in section 3121(a)) received by the
 19 individual with respect to employment (as defined in
 20 section 3121(b)).

21 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes
 22 of paragraph (1), the term ‘applicable percentage’
 23 means 0.2 percent in the case of wages received in
 24 any calendar year.”.

1 (2) EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION.—Section 3111
2 of such Code is amended—

3 (A) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
4 section (d), and

5 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
6 following:

7 “(c) FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other taxes,
9 there is hereby imposed on every employer an excise
10 tax, with respect to having individuals in his employ,
11 equal to the applicable percentage of the wages (as
12 defined in section 3121(a)) paid by the employer
13 with respect to employment (as defined in section
14 3121(b)).

15 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes
16 of paragraph (1), the term ‘applicable percentage’
17 means 0.2 percent in the case of wages paid in any
18 calendar year.”.

19 (3) SELF-EMPLOYMENT INCOME CONTRIBU-
20 TION.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Section 1401 of such
22 Code is amended—

23 (i) by redesignating subsection (c) as
24 subsection (d), and

1 (ii) by inserting after subsection (b)
 2 the following:

3 “(c) FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other taxes,
 5 there is hereby imposed for each taxable year, on the
 6 self-employment income of every individual, a tax
 7 equal to the applicable percentage of the amount of
 8 the self-employment income for such taxable year.

9 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes
 10 of paragraph (1), the term ‘applicable percentage’
 11 means 0.4 percent in the case of self-employment in-
 12 come in any taxable year.”.

13 (B) EXCLUSION OF CERTAIN NET EARN-
 14 INGS FROM SELF-EMPLOYMENT.—Section
 15 1402(b)(1) of such Code is amended by striking
 16 “tax imposed by section 1401(a)” and inserting
 17 “taxes imposed by subsections (a) and (c) of
 18 section 1401”.

19 (b) RAILROAD RETIREMENT TAX ACT.—

20 (1) EMPLOYEE CONTRIBUTION.—Section 3201
 21 of such Code is amended—

22 (A) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
 23 section (d), and

24 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
 25 following:

1 “(c) FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other taxes,
3 there is hereby imposed on the income of each em-
4 ployee a tax equal to the applicable percentage of
5 the compensation received during any calendar year
6 by such employee for services rendered by such em-
7 ployee.

8 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes
9 of paragraph (1), the term ‘applicable percentage’
10 means 0.2 percent in the case of compensation re-
11 ceived in any calendar year.”.

12 (2) EMPLOYEE REPRESENTATIVE CONTRIBU-
13 TION.—Section 3211 of such Code is amended—

14 (A) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
15 section (d), and

16 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
17 following:

18 “(c) FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other taxes,
20 there is hereby imposed on the income of each em-
21 ployee representative a tax equal to the applicable
22 percentage of the compensation received during any
23 calendar year by such employee representative for
24 services rendered by such employee representative.

1 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes
 2 of paragraph (1), the term ‘applicable percentage’
 3 means 0.2 percent in the case of compensation re-
 4 ceived in any calendar year.”.

5 (3) EMPLOYER CONTRIBUTION.—Section 3221
 6 of such Code is amended—

7 (A) by redesignating subsection (c) as sub-
 8 section (d), and

9 (B) by inserting after subsection (b) the
 10 following:

11 “(c) FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE INSURANCE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to other taxes,
 13 there is hereby imposed on every employer an excise
 14 tax, with respect to having individuals in his employ,
 15 equal to the applicable percentage of the compensa-
 16 tion paid during any calendar year by such employer
 17 for services rendered to such employer.

18 “(2) APPLICABLE PERCENTAGE.—For purposes
 19 of paragraph (1), the term ‘applicable percentage’
 20 means 0.2 percent in the case of compensation paid
 21 in any calendar year.”.

22 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

23 (1) Section 6413(c) of the Internal Revenue
 24 Code of 1986 is amended—

25 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by inserting “, section 3101(c),”
 2 after “by section 3101(a)”; and

3 (ii) by striking “both” and inserting
 4 “each”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “or
 6 3101(c)” after “3101(a)” each place it appears.

7 (2) Section 15(a) of the Railroad Retirement
 8 Act of 1974 (45 U.S.C. 231n(a)) is amended by in-
 9 serting “(other than sections 3201(c), 3211(c), and
 10 3221(c))” before the period at the end.

11 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
 12 this section shall take effect 120 days after the date of
 13 the enactment of this Act.

14 **SEC. 8. REGULATIONS.**

15 The Commissioner, in consultation with the Secretary
 16 of Labor, shall prescribe regulations necessary to carry out
 17 this Act. In developing such regulations, the Commissioner
 18 shall consider the input from a volunteer advisory body
 19 comprised of not more than 15 individuals, including ex-
 20 perts in the relevant subject matter and officials charged
 21 with implementing State paid family and medical leave in-
 22 surance programs. The Commissioner shall take such pro-
 23 grams into account when proposing regulations. Such indi-
 24 viduals shall be appointed as follows:

1 (1) Five individuals to be appointed by the
2 President.

3 (2) Three individuals to be appointed by the
4 majority leader of the Senate.

5 (3) Two individuals to be appointed by the mi-
6 nority leader of the Senate.

7 (4) Three individuals to be appointed by the
8 Speaker of the House of Representatives.

9 (5) Two individuals to be appointed by the mi-
10 nority leader of the House of Representatives.

11 **SEC. 9. GAO STUDY.**

12 Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment
13 of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit to Con-
14 gress a report on family and medical leave insurance bene-
15 fits paid under section 5 for any month during the 1-year
16 period beginning on January 1, 2021. The report shall in-
17 clude the following:

18 (1) An identification of the total number of ap-
19 plications for such benefits filed for any month dur-
20 ing such 1-year period, and the average number of
21 days occurring in the period beginning on the date
22 on which such an application is received and ending
23 on the date on which the initial determination of eli-
24 gibility with respect to the application is made.

1 (2) An identification of the total number of re-
2 requests for review of an initial adverse determination
3 of eligibility for such benefits made during such 1-
4 year period, and the average number of days occur-
5 ring in the period beginning on the date on which
6 such review is requested and ending on the date on
7 which the final determination of eligibility with re-
8 spect to such review is made.

9 (3) An identification of the total number of
10 monthly benefit claim reports for such benefits filed
11 during such 1-year period, and the average number
12 of days occurring in the period beginning on the
13 date on which such a claim report is received and
14 ending on the date on which the initial determina-
15 tion of eligibility with respect to the claim report is
16 made.

17 (4) An identification of the total number of re-
18 quests for review of an initial adverse determination
19 relating to a monthly benefit claim report for such
20 benefits made during such 1-year period, and the av-
21 erage number of days occurring in the period begin-
22 ning on the date on which such review is requested
23 and ending on the date on which the final deter-
24 mination of eligibility with respect to such review is
25 made.

- 1 (5) An identification of any excessive delay in
- 2 any of the periods described in paragraphs (1)
- 3 through (4), and a description of the causes for such
- 4 delay.

○