

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4690

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to require Members of Congress to reimburse the Treasury for amounts paid as awards and settlements under such Act in connection with violations of such Act consisting of acts of sexual harassment or sexual assault committed personally by Members of Congress.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 20, 2017

Mr. OLSON (for himself and Ms. STEFANIK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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 Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to require Members of Congress to reimburse the Treasury for amounts paid as awards and settlements under such Act in connection with violations of such Act consisting of acts of sexual harassment or sexual assault committed personally by Members of Congress.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Responsible Settle-
3 ments for Victims and Taxpayers Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. PERSONAL LIABILITY OF MEMBERS OF CONGRESS**
5 **TO REIMBURSE TREASURY FOR AMOUNTS**
6 **PAID AS SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS UNDER**
7 **CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF**
8 **1995.**

9 (a) MANDATING REIMBURSEMENT OF AMOUNTS
10 PAID.—Section 415 of the Congressional Accountability
11 Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415) is amended by adding at
12 the end the following new subsection:

13 “(d) PERSONAL LIABILITY OF MEMBERS OF CON-
14 GRESS FOR PAYMENT OF SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS.—

15 “(1) REIMBURSEMENT OF AMOUNTS PAID.—If
16 a payment is made from the account described in
17 subsection (a) for an award or settlement resulting
18 from a violation of part A of title II consisting of
19 an act of sexual harassment or sexual assault com-
20 mitted personally by a Member of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives or a Senator, the Member or Senator
22 shall reimburse the account for the amount of the
23 award or settlement.

24 “(2) USE OF THRIFT SAVINGS PLAN AGENCY
25 CONTRIBUTION AS SOURCE OF REIMBURSEMENT.—If
26 a Member or Senator has not met the requirements

1 of paragraph (1) with respect to an award or settle-
2 ment by the end of the expiration of the 180-day pe-
3 riod which begins on the date the award or settle-
4 ment is paid, the Secretary of the Treasury shall—

5 “(A) withhold the agency contribution oth-
6 erwise payable under section 8432(c)(1)(A) of
7 title 5, United States Code, to such Member of
8 Senator until an amount is collected equal to
9 the award or settlement (reduced by any
10 amount the Member or Senator has reim-
11 bursed); and

12 “(B) transfer to the account described in
13 subsection (a) such amount withheld under sub-
14 paragraph (A).

15 “(3) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary of the
16 Treasury shall carry out paragraph (2) in consulta-
17 tion with the Executive Director of the Thrift Sav-
18 ings Board and—

19 “(A) the Chief Administrative Officer of
20 the House of Representatives, in the case of a
21 Member of the House of Representatives; or

22 “(B) the Secretary of the Senate, in the
23 case of a Senator.”.

1 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by
2 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to payments made
3 on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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