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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish an interagency task force on worker protection from COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. STEVENS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish an interagency task force on worker protection from COVID–19, 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 “Essential Worker Pro-
5 tection Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON WORKER PROTEC-**
2 **TION FROM COVID-19.**

3 (a) TASK FORCE.—Not later than 1 month after the
4 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor
5 shall convene an interagency task force—

6 (1) to issue guidance with respect to the protec-
7 tion from occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 of
8 covered employees; and

9 (2) to take such steps as may be necessary to
10 disseminate such guidance to such employees (and
11 their employers), including by publication of such
12 guidance on the public website of the Department of
13 Labor.

14 (b) COMPOSITION.—The task force convened under
15 subsection (a) shall be chaired by the Secretary of Labor
16 and include the following members:

17 (1) The Secretary of Commerce.

18 (2) The Administrator of the Small Business
19 Administration.

20 (3) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
21 ices.

22 (4) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

23 (5) The Director of the Centers for Disease
24 Control and Prevention.

25 (6) The Secretary of Transportation.

26 (7) The Secretary of Defense.

1 (8) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

2 (9) Any the head of any other Federal agency
3 determined to be relevant by the Secretary of Labor.

4 (c) GUIDANCE CONTENTS.—The guidance issued
5 under subsection (a) shall include recommendations to em-
6 ployers of covered employees on the development and im-
7 plementation of a comprehensive infectious disease expo-
8 sure control plan that—

9 (1) includes appropriate production schedules to
10 follow the social distancing guidelines of the Centers
11 for Disease Control and Prevention;

12 (2) includes regular extensive deep cleaning of
13 facilities and equipment between shifts; and

14 (3) provides for education and training of such
15 employees, and ensures that such employers are
16 communicating information to employees in an ap-
17 propriate and timely manner, particularly in cases in
18 which an employee may have been exposed other in-
19 dividuals who have tested positive for COVID–19.

20 (d) UPDATES.—The guidance issued under sub-
21 section (a) shall—

22 (1) be updated as necessary to keep covered
23 employees apprised of the latest developments with
24 respect to the prevention of the spread of COVID–
25 19 until such time as—

1 (A) there is a treatment or vaccine ap-
2 proved or licensed under section 505 of the
3 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21
4 U.S.C. 355) or section 351 of the Public Health
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) for the treatment
6 or prevention of COVID-19; and

7 (B) such treatment or vaccine is widely
8 available within the United States; and

9 (2) be disseminated to covered employees (and
10 their employers) as so updated, including through
11 publication on the public website of the Department
12 of Labor.

13 (e) COVERED EMPLOYEES DEFINED.—In this sec-
14 tion, the term “covered employees” means employees
15 (other than employees of health care sector employers)
16 who have been identified as having an elevated risk of ex-
17 posure to SARS-CoV-2 by the Secretary of Labor or the
18 Secretary of Health and Human Services, including the
19 following:

20 (1) Grocery store employees.

21 (2) First responders (including emergency med-
22 ical system employees, firefighters, and law enforce-
23 ment officials).

24 (3) Manufacturers, including manufacturers of
25 personal protective equipment.

- 1 (4) Employees in the transportation industry.
- 2 (5) 9–1–1 call center operators.
- 3 (6) Workers supporting the energy grid.
- 4 (7) Pharmacists.
- 5 (8) Employees in the hospitality industry.
- 6 (9) Employees in the cybersecurity industry.
- 7 (10) Mortuary service employees.
- 8 (11) Employees working in or operating drink-
- 9 ing water and wastewater facilities.
- 10 (12) Employees of banks.