

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4497

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to prohibit the use of public funds to pay settlements and awards for workplace harassment and discrimination claims under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 which arise from acts committed personally by Members of Congress, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 30, 2017

Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to prohibit the use of public funds to pay settlements and awards for workplace harassment and discrimination claims under the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 which arise from acts committed personally by Members of Congress, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. PROHIBITING USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS TO PAY**
2 **SETTLEMENTS AND AWARDS FOR CLAIMS**
3 **UNDER CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY**
4 **ACT OF 1995 WHICH ARISE FROM ACTS COM-**
5 **MITTED PERSONALLY BY MEMBERS OF CON-**
6 **GRESS.**

7 (a) PROHIBITION.—Section 415 of the Congressional
8 Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1415) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection
10 (c)” and inserting “subsections (c) and (d)”; and

11 (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-
12 section:

13 “(d) NO USE OF PUBLIC FUNDS FOR PAYMENTS OF
14 AWARDS AND SETTLEMENTS IN CONNECTION WITH ACTS
15 COMMITTED PERSONALLY BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—No funds of the Treasury
17 of the United States, including the account described
18 in subsection (a), an account of the House of Rep-
19 resentatives or Senate, or any other account of the
20 Federal Government, may be used for the payment
21 of an award or settlement in connection with a viola-
22 tion of section 201(a) if the violation consists of an
23 act committed personally by a Member of the House
24 of Representatives or a Senator.

25 “(2) PERSONAL LIABILITY OF MEMBERS AND
26 SENATORS.—A Member of the House of Representa-

1 tives or Senator shall be personally liable for the
2 payment of an award or settlement described in
3 paragraph (1).”.

4 (b) PROHIBITING USE OF CAMPAIGN FUNDS FOR
5 PAYMENTS.—Section 313(b) of the Federal Election Cam-
6 paign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114(b)) is amended by
7 adding at the end the following new paragraph:

8 “(3) PROHIBITING USE TO PAY AWARDS OR
9 SETTLEMENTS IN CLAIMS BROUGHT AGAINST MEM-
10 BERS OF CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding paragraph
11 (2), a contribution or donation shall be considered to
12 be converted to personal use if it is used to pay an
13 award or settlement in connection with a violation of
14 section 201(a) of the Congressional Accountability
15 Act of 1995 which consists of an act committed per-
16 sonally by a Member of the House of Representa-
17 tives or a Senator.”.

18 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
19 this section shall apply with respect to settlements and
20 awards paid on or after the date of the enactment of this
21 Act.

1 **SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST USE OF MEMBERS' REP-**
2 **RESENTATIONAL ALLOWANCE FOR PAY-**
3 **MENTS IN CONNECTION WITH ALLEGATIONS**
4 **OF VIOLATIONS OF CONGRESSIONAL AC-**
5 **COUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995.**

6 The Members' Representational Allowance of a Mem-
7 ber of the House of Representatives may not be used to
8 pay awards, settlements, or other compensation in connec-
9 tion with allegations of any violation of section 201(a) of
10 the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 which con-
11 sists of an act committed personally by the Member.

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