To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on electronic consent forms, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

February 11, 2019

Mr. CARPER (for himself and Mr. PORTMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

A BILL

To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to issue guidance on electronic consent forms, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Creating Advanced Streamlined Electronic Services for Constituents Act of 2019” or the “CASES Act”.

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—
(1) congressional offices provide crucial services to constituents by acting as a liaison between the constituents and the respective agencies;

(2) this includes assisting constituents by making inquiries and working toward resolutions on behalf of the constituent with the respective agencies; and

(3) this process should be simplified through the creation of electronic forms that may be submitted under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly referred to as the “Privacy Act”), thus modernizing the process for constituents and improving access and efficiency of Government services and agencies in order to expedite the resolution of the problem for which constituents sought help.

SEC. 3. OMB GUIDANCE ON ELECTRONIC CONSENT AND ACCESS FORMS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY; INDIVIDUAL; RECORD.—The terms “agency”, “individual”, and “record” have the meanings given those terms in section 552a(a) of title 5, United States Code.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.
(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall issue guidance that—

(1) requires each agency to accept electronic identity proofing and authentication processes for the purpose of allowing an individual to provide prior written consent for the disclosure of the records of the individual under section 552a(b) of title 5, United States Code, or for individual access to records under section 552a(d) of such title;

(2) creates a template for electronic consent and access forms and requires each agency to accept the forms from any individual properly identity proofed and authenticated in accordance with paragraph (1) for the purpose of authorizing disclosure of the records of the individual under section 552a(b) of title 5, United States Code, or for individual access to records under section 552a(d) of such title; and

(3) requires each agency to accept the electronic consent and access forms described in paragraph (2) from any individual properly identity proofed and authenticated in accordance with paragraph (1) for the purpose of authorizing disclosure of the records of the individual to another entity, including a con-
gressional office, in accordance with section 552a(b) of title 5, United States Code, or for individual access to records under section 552a(d) of such title.

(c) AGENCY COMPLIANCE.—Each agency shall comply with the guidance issued under subsection (b) not later than 1 year after the date on which the guidance is issued.

SEC. 4. NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.

No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act. Such requirements shall be carried out using amounts otherwise authorized.