

The only details we do have are from a survey that enjoyed a brief existence online before it was removed out of embarrassment and has since been denied.

One source of embarrassment was the call to get rid of cows. To my knowledge, this is the first time that a Member of this House has called for bovine genocide.

That the deal's supporters are now hiding these facts reveals that the true agenda behind the Green New Deal is too horrifying to be shared with any of the public. As a rule of thumb, any law that cannot be shared with the people cannot serve the people.

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for his input on this important issue. It underscores the cost to the Nation if this were adopted and its impact on our economy. I thank the gentleman for that tremendous help.

I thank all my colleagues, members of the Congressional Western Caucus, for participating tonight to point out some of the fallacies of the Green New Deal. Certainly, it is something that, as legislation is proposed, this is the process: We talk about what we like, what we don't like, and we offer alternatives, trying to find solutions in a bipartisan way.

Republicans have always advocated to continue looking at these issues of climate change, of energy use and production, of issues facing the environment. We are always looking for ways to innovate, to adequately fund research, but, basically, underscoring all of that, relying on the use of sound science for any decisions that we make, to make sure that the policies that we adopt are those that will be sustaining and good for not only our country, but for the world.

So we base our decisions on science, not politics. As Republicans, as members of the Congressional Western Caucus, which is a bipartisan organization, we look forward to debating seriously and making serious decisions in regard to these very important issues that face our country, face the next generation, and face the world.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to continuing debates on this important topic, and I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for today on account of inclement weather.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tues-

day, February 26, 2019, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BIENNIAL REPORT OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

U.S. CONGRESS, OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS,

Washington, DC, February 25, 2019.

Speaker NANCY PELOSI,
Office of the Speaker,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER PELOSI: Section 102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) requires the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR) to biennially submit a report containing recommendations regarding Federal workplace rights, safety and health, and public access laws and regulations that should be made applicable to Congress and its agencies. The purpose of this report is to ensure that the rights afforded by the CAA to legislative branch employees and visitors to Capitol Hill and district offices remain equivalent to those in the private sector and the executive branch of the Federal government. As such, these recommendations support the intent of Congress to keep pace with advances in workplace rights and public access laws.

Accompanying this letter is a copy of our section 102(b) report—titled “Recommendations for Improvements to the Congressional Accountability Act”—for consideration by the 116th Congress. We welcome discussion on these issues and urge that Congress act on these important recommendations.

Your office is receiving this initial copy prior to it being uploaded to our public website. On March 4, 2019, this report will be disseminated to the larger Congressional community and available on www.ocwr.gov. As required by the Congressional Accountability Act, 2 U.S.C. §1302(b), I request that this publication be printed in the Congressional Record, and referred to the committees of the House of Representatives and Senate with jurisdiction.

Sincerely,

SUSAN TSUI GRUNDMANN,
Executive Director.

116TH CONGRESS—RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMPROVEMENTS TO THE CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT

Office of Congressional Workplace Rights—Board of Directors’ Biennial Report required by §102(b) of the Congressional Accountability Act issued at the conclusion of the 115th Congress (2017–2018) for consideration by the 116th Congress

Statement From the Board of Directors

The Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (CAA) embodies a promise by Congress to the American public that it will hold itself accountable to the same federal workplace and accessibility laws that it applies to private sector employers and executive branch agencies. This landmark legislation was also crafted to provide for ongoing review of the workplace and accessibility laws that apply to Congress. Section 102(b) of the CAA thus tasks the Board of Directors of the Office of Congressional Workplace Rights (OCWR)—formerly the Office of Compliance—to review legislation and regulations to ensure that workplace protections in the legislative branch are on par with private sector and executive branch agencies. Accordingly, every Congress, the Board reports on: whether or to what degree [provisions of Federal law (including regulations) relating to (A) the terms and conditions of employ-

ment (including hiring, promotion, demotion, termination, salary, wages, overtime compensation, benefits, work assignments or reassignments, grievance and disciplinary procedures, protection from discrimination in personnel actions, occupational health and safety, and family and medical and other leave) of employees; and (B) access to public services and accommodations] . . . are applicable or inapplicable to the legislative branch, and . . . with respect to provisions inapplicable to the legislative branch, whether such provisions should be made applicable to the legislative branch. This section of the CAA also requires that the presiding officers of the House of Representatives and the Senate cause our report to be printed in the Congressional Record and refer the report to committees of the House and Senate with jurisdiction.

On December 21, 2018, as we were in the process of finalizing our Section 102(b) Report for the 115th Congress, the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act, S. 3749, was signed into law. Not since the passage of the CAA in 1995 has there been a more significant moment in the evolution of legislative branch workplace rights. The new law focuses on protecting victims, strengthening transparency, holding violators accountable for their personal conduct, and improving the adjudication process. Some of the changes in the CAA Reform Act are effective immediately, such as the name change of our Office, but most will be effective 180 days from enactment, i.e., on June 19, 2019. The CAA Reform Act incorporates several of the recommendations that the OCWR has made to Congress in past Section 102(b) Reports and in other contexts, such as in testimony before the Committee on House Administration (CHA) as part of that committee's comprehensive review in 2018 of the protections that the CAA offers legislative branch employees against harassment and discrimination in the congressional workplace. These changes include the following:

Mandatory Anti-Discrimination, Anti-Harassment, and Anti-Retaliation Training

The Board has consistently recommended in its past biennial Section 102(b) Reports and in testimony before Congress that anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-reprisal training should be mandatory for all Members, officers, employees and staff of Congress and the other employing offices in the legislative branch. Last year, the House and the Senate adopted resolutions (S. Res 330 and H. Res. 630) that require all of its Members, Officers and employees, as well as interns, detailees, and fellows, to complete an anti-harassment and anti-discrimination training program. We are pleased that the CAA Reform Act includes these broader mandates for the congressional workforce at large. Under the new law, employing offices (other than the House of Representatives and the Senate) are also required to develop and implement a program to train and educate covered employees on the rights and protections provided under the CAA, including the procedures available under CAA title IV, which describes the OCWR administrative and judicial dispute resolution procedures. 509(a), 2 U.S.C. §1438(a). Employing offices must submit a report on the implementation of their CAA-required training and education programs to the CHA and the Committee on Rules and Administration of the Senate no later than 45 days after the beginning of each Congress, beginning with the 117th Congress. For the 116th Congress, this report is due no later than 180 days after the enactment of the CAA Reform Act, which is June 19, 2019. 509(b)(1), (b)(2), 2 U.S.C. §1438(b)(1), (b)(2)

The OCWR stands ready to assist employing offices in developing their anti-discrimination, anti-harassment, and anti-reprisal