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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to eliminate the section 251A sequestrations.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SMITH of Washington introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to eliminate the section 251A sequestrations.

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 “Relief From Sequestra-
5 tion Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Sequestration was designed as a forcing
2 mechanism for an agreement on a comprehensive,
3 deficit reduction plan. It has failed to produce the
4 intended results.

5 (2) The Budget Control Act of 2011 was en-
6 acted to avert a default on Federal debt obligations.

7 (3) Because the Joint Select Committee on Def-
8 icit Reduction failed to recommend legislation pro-
9 viding an additional \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction,
10 Federal law mandates that the additional savings be
11 sequestered.

12 (4) Congress must enact a comprehensive, def-
13 icit reduction plan to solve the country's fiscal chal-
14 lenges and to promote national security, economic
15 stability, and the continued growth and prosperity of
16 the United States.

17 (5) It no longer makes sense to rely on seques-
18 tration as a forcing mechanism for a balanced solu-
19 tion. The costs to our Government and to the econ-
20 omy are too great.

21 (6) Under sequestration, damaging cuts would
22 be applied, through fiscal year 2021, to a wide vari-
23 ety of discretionary spending programs to achieve
24 \$1.2 trillion in savings, forestalling the sound plan-
25 ning needed for prudent and meaningful investments

1 in national security, the workforce, transportation
2 infrastructure, education, health care, public safety,
3 housing, innovation, small business development, and
4 many other facets of enduring national strength.

5 (7) Even the prospect of sequestration is dis-
6 ruptive to regular order and to the congressional ap-
7 propriations process, and it fosters damaging eco-
8 nomic uncertainty, while short-term solutions only
9 suspend the prospect and continue to undermine the
10 certainty needed for economic recovery.

11 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—

12 (1) eliminate sequestration resulting from the
13 failure of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Re-
14 duction; and

15 (2) offer the Federal Government, industry, and
16 the American people the predictability that economic
17 recovery demands.

18 **SEC. 3. REPEAL OF SECTION 251A SEQUESTRATIONS.**

19 (a) REPEALER.—Section 251A of the Balanced
20 Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 is re-
21 pealed.

22 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—The item relating
23 to section 251A in the table of contents set forth in section
24 250(a) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit
25 Control Act of 1985 is repealed.