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.

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 “Relief From Sequestration Act of 2017”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:
(1) Sequestration was designed as a forcing mechanism for an agreement on a comprehensive, deficit reduction plan. It has failed to produce the intended results.

(2) The Budget Control Act of 2011 was enacted to avert a default on Federal debt obligations.

(3) Because the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction failed to recommend legislation providing an additional $1.2 trillion in deficit reduction, Federal law mandates that the additional savings be sequestered.

(4) Congress must enact a comprehensive, deficit reduction plan to solve the country’s fiscal challenges and to promote national security, economic stability, and the continued growth and prosperity of the United States.

(5) It no longer makes sense to rely on sequestration as a forcing mechanism for a balanced solution. The costs to our Government and to the economy are too great.

(6) Under sequestration, damaging cuts would be applied, through fiscal year 2021, to a wide variety of discretionary spending programs to achieve $1.2 trillion in savings, forestalling the sound planning needed for prudent and meaningful investments
in national security, the workforce, transportation
infrastructure, education, health care, public safety,
housing, innovation, small business development, and
many other facets of enduring national strength.

(7) Even the prospect of sequestration is dis-
ruptive to regular order and to the congressional ap-
propriations process, and it fosters damaging eco-

nomic uncertainty, while short-term solutions only
suspend the prospect and continue to undermine the
certainty needed for economic recovery.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are to—
(1) eliminate sequestration resulting from the
failure of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Re-
duction; and

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

SEC. 3. REPEAL OF SECTION 251A SEQUESTRATIONS.

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

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Control Act of 1985 is repealed.