

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. \_\_\_\_\_**

**OFFERED BY M\_\_ . \_\_\_\_\_**

Add at the end of title III the following new subtitle:

1 **Subtitle G—Personal Use Services**  
2 **as Authorized Campaign Ex-**  
3 **penditures**

4 **SEC. 361. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

5 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This subtitle may be cited as the  
6 “Help America Run Act”.

7 (b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Everyday Americans experience barriers to  
9 entry before they can consider running for office to  
10 serve their communities.

11 (2) Current law states that campaign funds  
12 cannot be spent on everyday expenses that would  
13 exist whether or not a candidate were running for  
14 office, like childcare and food. While the law seems  
15 neutral, its actual effect is to privilege the independ-  
16 ently wealthy who want to run, because given the de-  
17 mands of running for office, candidates who must  
18 work to pay for childcare or to afford health insur-  
19 ance are effectively being left out of the process,

1 even if they have sufficient support to mount a via-  
2 ble campaign.

3 (3) Thus current practice favors those prospec-  
4 tive candidates who do not need to rely on a regular  
5 paycheck to make ends meet. The consequence is  
6 that everyday Americans who have firsthand knowl-  
7 edge of the importance of stable childcare, a safety  
8 net, or great public schools are less likely to get a  
9 seat at the table. This governance by the few is anti-  
10 thetical to the democratic experiment, but most im-  
11 portantly, when lawmakers do not share the con-  
12 cerns of everyday Americans, their policies reflect  
13 that.

14 (4) These circumstances have contributed to a  
15 Congress that does not always reflect everyday  
16 Americans. The New York Times reported in 2019  
17 that fewer than 5 percent of representatives cite  
18 blue-collar or service jobs in their biographies. A  
19 2020 analysis by OpenSecrets of lawmakers' per-  
20 sonal financial disclosure statements showed that the  
21 median net worth of lawmakers was just over  
22 \$1,000,000, or nearly 9 times the median net worth  
23 of American families.

24 (5) These circumstances have also contributed  
25 to a governing body that does not reflect the nation

1 it serves. For instance, women are 51 percent of the  
2 American population. Yet even with a record number  
3 of women serving in the One Hundred Eighteenth  
4 Congress, the Pew Research Center notes that near-  
5 ly three out of four Members of this Congress are  
6 male. The Center for American Women and Politics  
7 found that one third of women legislators surveyed  
8 had been actively discouraged from running for of-  
9 fice, often by political professionals. This type of dis-  
10 couragement, combined with the prohibitions on  
11 using campaign funds for domestic needs like  
12 childcare, burdens that still fall disproportionately  
13 on American women, particularly disadvantages  
14 working mothers. These barriers may explain why  
15 only 10 women in history have given birth while  
16 serving in Congress, in spite of the prevalence of  
17 working parents in other professions. Yet working  
18 mothers and fathers are best positioned to create  
19 policy that reflects the lived experience of most  
20 Americans.

21 (6) Working mothers, those caring for their el-  
22 derly parents, and young professionals who rely on  
23 their jobs for health insurance should have the free-  
24 dom to run to serve the people of the United States.  
25 Their networks and net worth are simply not the

1 best indicators of their strength as prospective pub-  
2 lic servants. In fact, helping ordinary Americans to  
3 run may create better policy for all Americans.

4 (c) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subtitle to  
5 ensure that all Americans who are otherwise qualified to  
6 serve this Nation are able to run for office, regardless of  
7 their economic status. By expanding permissible uses of  
8 campaign funds and providing modest assurance that test-  
9 ing a run for office will not cost one’s livelihood, the Help  
10 America Run Act will facilitate the candidacy of represent-  
11 atives who more accurately reflect the experiences, chal-  
12 lenges, and ideals of everyday Americans.

13 **SEC. 362. TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE AND**  
14 **OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AU-**  
15 **THORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.**

16 (a) PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED CAM-  
17 PAIGN EXPENDITURE.—Section 313 of the Federal Elec-  
18 tion Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30114) is amended  
19 by adding at the end the following new subsection:

20 “(d) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE  
21 AND OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED  
22 CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.—

23 “(1) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.—For pur-  
24 poses of subsection (a), the payment by an author-  
25 ized committee of a candidate for any of the per-

1       sonal use services described in paragraph (3) shall  
2       be treated as an authorized expenditure if the serv-  
3       ices are necessary to enable the participation of the  
4       candidate in campaign-connected activities.

5               “(2) LIMITATIONS.—

6                       “(A) LIMIT ON TOTAL AMOUNT OF PAY-  
7                       MENTS.—The total amount of payments made  
8                       by an authorized committee of a candidate for  
9                       personal use services described in paragraph (3)  
10                      may not exceed the limit which is applicable  
11                      under any law, rule, or regulation on the  
12                      amount of payments which may be made by the  
13                      committee for the salary of the candidate (with-  
14                      out regard to whether or not the committee  
15                      makes payments to the candidate for that pur-  
16                      pose).

17                      “(B) CORRESPONDING REDUCTION IN  
18                      AMOUNT OF SALARY PAID TO CANDIDATE.—To  
19                      the extent that an authorized committee of a  
20                      candidate makes payments for the salary of the  
21                      candidate, any limit on the amount of such pay-  
22                      ments which is applicable under any law, rule,  
23                      or regulation shall be reduced by the amount of  
24                      any payments made to or on behalf of the can-  
25                      didate for personal use services described in

1 paragraph (3), other than personal use services  
2 described in subparagraph (D) of such para-  
3 graph.

4 “(C) EXCLUSION OF CANDIDATES WHO  
5 ARE OFFICEHOLDERS.—Paragraph (1) does not  
6 apply with respect to an authorized committee  
7 of a candidate who is a holder of Federal office.

8 “(3) PERSONAL USE SERVICES DESCRIBED.—  
9 The personal use services described in this para-  
10 graph are as follows:

11 “(A) Child care services.

12 “(B) Elder care services.

13 “(C) Services similar to the services de-  
14 scribed in subparagraph (A) or subparagraph  
15 (B) which are provided on behalf of any de-  
16 pendent who is a qualifying relative under sec-  
17 tion 152 of the Internal Revenue Code of  
18 1986.”.

19 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
20 this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment  
21 of this Act and shall take effect without regard to whether  
22 or not the Federal Election Commission has promulgated  
23 regulations to carry out such amendments.

