

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4912

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 5, 2025

Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BROWN, Mr. CARSON, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. FIELDS, Mr. FIGURES, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. McCLELLAN, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SIMON, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. TONKO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

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## A BILL

To amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to provide for the treatment of payments for child care and other personal use services as an authorized campaign expenditure, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

2 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Help America Run Act”.

4 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

5 (1) Everyday Americans experience barriers to  
6 entry before they can consider running for office to  
7 serve their communities.

8 (2) Current law states that campaign funds  
9 cannot be spent on everyday expenses that would  
10 exist whether or not a candidate were running for  
11 office, like rent and food. While the law seems neu-  
12 tral, its actual effect is to privilege the independently  
13 wealthy who want to run, because given the de-  
14 mands of running for office, candidates who must  
15 work to pay for child care or to afford health insur-  
16 ance are effectively being left out of the process,  
17 even if they have sufficient support to mount a via-  
18 ble campaign.

19 (3) Thus current practice favors those prospec-  
20 tive candidates who do not need to rely on a regular  
21 paycheck to make ends meet. The consequence is  
22 that everyday Americans who have firsthand knowl-  
23 edge of the importance of stable child care, a safety  
24 net, or great public schools are less likely to get a  
25 seat at the table. This governance by the few is anti-  
26 thetical to the democratic experiment, but most im-

1 portantly, when lawmakers do not share the con-  
2 cerns of everyday Americans, their policies reflect  
3 that.

4 (4) These circumstances have contributed to a  
5 Congress that does not always reflect everyday  
6 Americans. The New York Times reported in 2019  
7 that fewer than 5 percent of representatives cite  
8 blue-collar or service jobs in their biographies. A  
9 2015 survey by the Center for Responsive Politics  
10 showed that the median net worth of lawmakers was  
11 just over \$1 million in 2013, or 18 times the wealth  
12 of the typical American household.

13 (5) These circumstances have also contributed  
14 to a governing body that does not reflect the Nation  
15 it serves. For instance, women are 51 percent of the  
16 American population. Yet even with a record number  
17 of women serving in the One Hundred Eighteenth  
18 Congress, the Pew Research Center notes that more  
19 than two out of three Members of this Congress are  
20 male. The Center for American Women And Politics  
21 found that one-third of women legislators surveyed  
22 had been actively discouraged from running for of-  
23 fice, often by political professionals. This type of dis-  
24 couragement, combined with the burdens of child  
25 care that still fall disproportionately on American

1 women, particularly disadvantages working mothers.  
2 These barriers may explain why only 12 women in  
3 history have given birth while serving in Congress,  
4 in spite of the prevalence of working parents in  
5 other professions. Yet working mothers and fathers  
6 are best positioned to create policy that reflects the  
7 lived experience of most Americans.

8 (6) Working mothers, those caring for their el-  
9 derly parents, and young professionals who rely on  
10 their jobs for health insurance should have the free-  
11 dom to run to serve the people of the United States.  
12 Their networks and net worth are simply not the  
13 best indicators of their strength as prospective pub-  
14 lic servants. In fact, helping ordinary Americans to  
15 run may create better policy for all Americans.

16 (c) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to ensure  
17 that all Americans who are otherwise qualified to serve  
18 this Nation are able to run for office, regardless of their  
19 economic status. By expanding permissible uses of cam-  
20 paign funds and providing modest assurance that testing  
21 a run for office will not cost one’s livelihood, the Help  
22 America Run Act will facilitate the candidacy of represent-  
23 atives who more accurately reflect the experiences, chal-  
24 lenges, and ideals of everyday Americans.

1 **SEC. 2. TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE AND**  
2 **OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AU-**  
3 **THORIZED CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.**

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

8 “(d) TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS FOR CHILD CARE  
9 AND OTHER PERSONAL USE SERVICES AS AUTHORIZED  
10 CAMPAIGN EXPENDITURE.—

11 “(1) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.—For pur-  
12 poses of subsection (a), the payment by an author-  
13 ized committee of a candidate for any of the per-  
14 sonal use services described in paragraph (2) shall  
15 be treated as an authorized expenditure if the serv-  
16 ices are necessary to enable the participation of the  
17 candidate in campaign-connected activities or to en-  
18 able the candidate to carry out duties as a holder of  
19 Federal office.

20 “(2) PERSONAL USE SERVICES DESCRIBED.—

21 “(A) SERVICES DESCRIBED.—Except as  
22 provided in subparagraph (B), the personal use  
23 services described in this paragraph are as fol-  
24 lows:

25 “(i) Child care services.

26 “(ii) Elder care services.

1           “(iii) Services similar to the services  
2           described in subparagraph (A) or subpara-  
3           graph (B) which are provided on behalf of  
4           any dependent who is a qualifying relative  
5           under section 152 of the Internal Revenue  
6           Code of 1986.

7           “(iv) Health insurance premiums.

8           “(B) EXCEPTION FOR CANDIDATES HOLD-  
9           ING FEDERAL OFFICE.—In the case of a can-  
10          didate who holds Federal office, the personal  
11          use services described in this paragraph do not  
12          include health insurance premiums.”.

13          (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
14          this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment  
15          of this Act.

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