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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize a public service announcement campaign on the efficacy of cloth face coverings in reducing the spread of COVID–19, to authorize a program to provide cloth face coverings to any American who requests one free of charge, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. SCHIFF introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To authorize a public service announcement campaign on the efficacy of cloth face coverings in reducing the spread of COVID–19, to authorize a program to provide cloth face coverings to any American who requests one free of charge, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Masks Work Act of  
5 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The SARS-CoV-2 virus has killed over  
4 110,000 Americans and infected at least 2,000,000  
5 others.

6 (2) The measures taken to contain the virus, in-  
7 cluding social distancing and stay at home orders,  
8 have resulted in a significant economic disruption,  
9 causing tens of millions of Americans to lose jobs  
10 and income.

11 (3) Scientific experts, including Dr. Anthony  
12 Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy  
13 and Infectious Diseases, have warned of the danger  
14 of a second wave of infections striking the United  
15 States in fall and winter.

16 (4) Scientific experts within the United States  
17 Government and elsewhere have strongly advised  
18 Americans to wear cloth face coverings as a means  
19 to slow the spread of COVID-19 and have stated  
20 that wearing cloth face coverings may reduce the  
21 spread of respiratory droplets that may carry the  
22 disease.

23 (5) There is a growing body of scientific re-  
24 search indicating that high levels of cloth face cov-  
25 ering adoption by a population can reduce trans-  
26 mission of the virus, and may prevent asymptomatic

1 or presymptomatic carriers from unknowingly infect-  
2 ing others.

3 (6) One scientific model estimated that if 80  
4 percent of the population adopted proper face cov-  
5 ering use, transmission would be  $\frac{1}{12}$  what it would  
6 be in a population without wearing cloth face cov-  
7 erings. Another newly released study conducted with  
8 animals found that face coverings reduced trans-  
9 mission of COVID-19 by 75 percent.

10 (7) Nations in Southeast Asia with high levels  
11 of cloth face covering wearing have been more effec-  
12 tive than others in reducing the spread of COVID-  
13 19, and have experienced comparably fewer infec-  
14 tions and deaths as a result.

15 (8) A recent study from the University of  
16 Iowa's College of Public Health suggests that the 15  
17 States and the District of Columbia, having man-  
18 dated wearing face coverings in public between April  
19 8, 2020, and May 15, 2020, averted as many as  
20 230,000 to 450,000 COVID-19 cases.

21 (9) Many Americans have heeded the calls of  
22 public health experts to wear cloth face coverings  
23 and have made major sacrifices in other aspects of  
24 their life in order to control the spread of the virus.

1 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

2 It is the sense of Congress that —

3 (1) following the consensus advice of public  
4 health experts to wear face coverings can meaning-  
5 fully reduce transmission rates for COVID–19, re-  
6 sulting in fewer deaths, fewer Americans made seri-  
7 ously ill, and lower economic disruption;

8 (2) Americans should wear appropriate face  
9 coverings in situations where social distancing is dif-  
10 ficult or impossible, particularly in indoors environ-  
11 ments, both to protect themselves and to protect  
12 older Americans or others with health conditions  
13 that increase the risks of serious illness due to  
14 COVID–19; and

15 (3) leaders across the political spectrum should  
16 model medically recommended behaviors by wearing  
17 face coverings appropriately and encouraging those  
18 around them to do the same.

19 **SEC. 4. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT CAMPAIGN.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Centers for  
21 Disease Control and Prevention (in this section referred  
22 to as the “Director”) shall carry out a public service an-  
23 nouncement campaign campaign on television, radio, the  
24 internet, and digital platforms, and in print publications,  
25 informing Americans on—

26 (1) the efficacy of cloth face coverings; and

1           (2) why cloth face coverings are recommended  
2           by scientific and medical experts to reduce the  
3           spread of COVID–19.

4           (b) AUDIENCE.—In carrying out the campaign under  
5           subsection (a), the Director shall ensure that public serv-  
6           ice announcements reach as many Americans as possible  
7           with scientifically accurate messages about cloth face cov-  
8           erings.

9           (c) LANGUAGE.—The Director shall ensure that pub-  
10          lic service announcements under this section are provided  
11          in at least 19 languages in addition to English, including  
12          the following:

- 13           (1) Spanish.
- 14           (2) Arabic.
- 15           (3) Cambodian.
- 16           (4) Chinese.
- 17           (5) Haitian Creole.
- 18           (6) French.
- 19           (7) Hindi.
- 20           (8) Italian.
- 21           (9) Japanese.
- 22           (10) Korean.
- 23           (11) Laotian.
- 24           (12) Russian.
- 25           (13) Tagalog.

1 (14) Urdu.

2 (15) Vietnamese.

3 (16) Greek.

4 (17) Polish.

5 (18) Thai.

6 (19) Portuguese.

7 (d) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—In carrying out the  
8 campaign under subsection (a), the Director may, subject  
9 to the availability of appropriations, award grants to, and  
10 enter into contracts with, public and private entities (in-  
11 cluding nonprofit organizations).

12 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
13 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated  
14 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2020 and  
15 2021, to remain available until expended.

16 **SEC. 5. CLOTH FACE COVERINGS FOR ALL.**

17 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the availability of ap-  
18 propriations, the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
19 (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”) shall carry  
20 out a program to provide cloth face coverings to any  
21 American who requests one free of charge by United  
22 States mail.

23 (b) REQUESTS.—In carrying out this section, the  
24 Secretary shall establish procedures allowing Americans to  
25 request up to three cloth face coverings per person in their

1 household through the internet, by mail, or by phone (in-  
2 cluding text messaging).

3 (c) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall consult  
4 with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and  
5 Prevention, the Director of the National Institutes of  
6 Health, and the heads of other agencies as appropriate  
7 regarding the design and selection of cloth face coverings  
8 to be provided under this section.

9 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
10 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated  
11 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2020 and  
12 2021, to remain available until expended.

13 **SEC. 6. NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH RESEARCH ON**  
14 **CLOTH FACE COVERING EFFICACY.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-  
16 stitutes of Health (in this section referred to as the “Di-  
17 rector”) shall conduct or support research on the efficacy  
18 of cloth face coverings, face shields, ventilators, and other  
19 facial coverings to reduce the spread of COVID–19.

20 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Research under this section  
21 may include—

22 (1) research on the effect of wearing cloth face  
23 coverings on the spread of the virus that causes  
24 COVID–19;

1           (2) research on the situations for which cloth  
2 face coverings are scientifically indicated;

3           (3) research on the most effective materials or  
4 designs of cloth face coverings; and

5           (4) other topics as the Director determines ap-  
6 propriate.

7           (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
8 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
9 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2022,  
10 to remain available until expended.