

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1629

To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to review and make certain revisions to the Standard Occupational Classification System, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2019

Mrs. TORRES of California (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SHALALA, Mr. MEADOWS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. STAUBER, and Ms. WILD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To require the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to review and make certain revisions to the Standard Occupational Classification System, 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 “Supporting Accurate
5 Views of Emergency Services Act of 2019” or the “911
6 SAVES Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Public Safety Telecommunicators play a
4 critical role in emergency response.

5 (2) The work Public Safety Telecommunicators
6 perform goes far beyond merely relaying information
7 between the public and first responders.

8 (3) When responding to reports of missing, ab-
9 ducted, and sexually exploited children, the informa-
10 tion obtained and actions taken by Public Safety
11 Telecommunicators form the foundation for an effec-
12 tive response.

13 (4) When a hostage taker or suicidal person
14 calls 9–1–1, the first contact is with the Public Safe-
15 ty Telecommunicator whose negotiation skills can
16 prevent the situation from getting worse.

17 (5) During active shooter incidents, Public
18 Safety Telecommunicators coach callers through
19 first aid and give advice to prevent further harm, all
20 while collecting vital information to provide situa-
21 tional awareness for responding officers.

22 (6) And when police officers, firefighters, and
23 Emergency Medical Technicians are being shot at,
24 their calls for help go to Public Safety Telecommu-
25 nicators.

1 (7) They are often communicating with people
2 in great distress, harm, fear, or injury, while em-
3 ploying their experience and training to recognize a
4 critical piece of information.

5 (8) In fact, there have been incidents in which
6 Public Safety Telecommunicators, recognizing the
7 sound of a racked shotgun, have prevented serious
8 harm or death of law enforcement officers who
9 would have otherwise walked into a trap.

10 (9) This work comes with an extreme emotional
11 and physical impact that is compounded by long
12 hours and the around-the-clock nature of the job.

13 (10) Indeed, research has suggested that Public
14 Safety Telecommunicators are exposed to trauma
15 that may lead to the development of posttraumatic
16 stress disorder.

17 (11) Recognizing the risks associated with expo-
18 sure to traumatic events, some agencies provide
19 Critical Incident Stress Debriefing (CISD) teams to
20 lessen the psychological impact and accelerate recov-
21 ery for Public Safety Telecommunicators and first
22 responders, alike.

23 (12) The Standard Occupational Classification
24 system is designed and maintained solely for statis-
25 tical purposes, and is used by federal statistical

1 agencies to classify workers and jobs into occupa-
2 tional categories for the purpose of collecting, calcu-
3 lating, analyzing, or disseminating data.

4 (13) Occupations in the Standard Occupational
5 Classification are classified based on work performed
6 and, in some cases, on the skills, education, or train-
7 ing needed to perform the work.

8 (14) Classifying public safety telecommunica-
9 tors as Protective Service Occupations would correct
10 an inaccurate representation in the Standard Occu-
11 pational Classification, recognize these professionals
12 for the lifesaving work they perform, and better
13 align the Standard Occupational Classification with
14 related classification systems.

15 **SEC. 3. REVIEW OF STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSI-**
16 **FICATION SYSTEM.**

17 The Director of the Office of Management and Budg-
18 et shall not later than 30 days after the date of the enact-
19 ment of this Act, categorize public safety telecommunica-
20 tors as a protective service occupation under the Standard
21 Occupational Classification System.

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