

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6631

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish an interagency task force on worker protection from COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2020

Ms. STEVENS (for herself and Mr. PAPPAS) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Labor to establish an interagency task force on worker protection from COVID–19, 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 “Essential Worker Pro-
5 tection Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE ON WORKER PROTEC-**
7 **TION FROM COVID–19.**

8 (a) TASK FORCE.—Not later than 1 month after the
9 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Labor
10 shall convene an interagency task force—

1 (1) to issue guidance with respect to the protec-
2 tion from occupational exposure to SARS-CoV-2 of
3 covered employees; and

4 (2) to take such steps as may be necessary to
5 disseminate such guidance to such employees (and
6 their employers), including by publication of such
7 guidance on the public website of the Department of
8 Labor.

9 (b) COMPOSITION.—The task force convened under
10 subsection (a) shall be chaired by the Secretary of Labor
11 and include the following members:

12 (1) The Secretary of Commerce.

13 (2) The Administrator of the Small Business
14 Administration.

15 (3) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
16 ices.

17 (4) The Commissioner of Food and Drugs.

18 (5) The Director of the Centers for Disease
19 Control and Prevention.

20 (6) The Secretary of Transportation.

21 (7) The Secretary of Defense.

22 (8) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

23 (9) Any the head of any other Federal agency
24 determined to be relevant by the Secretary of Labor.

1 (c) GUIDANCE CONTENTS.—The guidance issued
2 under subsection (a) shall include recommendations to em-
3 ployers of covered employees on the development and im-
4 plementation of a comprehensive infectious disease expo-
5 sure control plan that—

6 (1) includes appropriate production schedules to
7 follow the social distancing guidelines of the Centers
8 for Disease Control and Prevention;

9 (2) includes regular extensive deep cleaning of
10 facilities and equipment between shifts; and

11 (3) provides for education and training of such
12 employees, and ensures that such employers are
13 communicating information to employees in an ap-
14 propriate and timely manner, particularly in cases in
15 which an employee may have been exposed other in-
16 dividuals who have tested positive for COVID–19.

17 (d) UPDATES.—The guidance issued under sub-
18 section (a) shall—

19 (1) be updated as necessary to keep covered
20 employees apprised of the latest developments with
21 respect to the prevention of the spread of COVID–
22 19 until such time as—

23 (A) there is a treatment or vaccine ap-
24 proved or licensed under section 505 of the
25 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21

1 U.S.C. 355) or section 351 of the Public Health
2 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262) for the treatment
3 or prevention of COVID–19; and

4 (B) such treatment or vaccine is widely
5 available within the United States; and

6 (2) be disseminated to covered employees (and
7 their employers) as so updated, including through
8 publication on the public website of the Department
9 of Labor.

10 (e) COVERED EMPLOYEES DEFINED.—In this sec-
11 tion, the term “covered employees” means employees
12 (other than employees of health care sector employers)
13 who have been identified as having an elevated risk of ex-
14 posure to SARS–CoV–2 by the Secretary of Labor or the
15 Secretary of Health and Human Services, including the
16 following:

17 (1) Grocery store employees.

18 (2) First responders (including emergency med-
19 ical system employees, firefighters, and law enforce-
20 ment officials).

21 (3) Manufacturers, including manufacturers of
22 personal protective equipment.

23 (4) Employees in the transportation industry.

24 (5) 9–1–1 call center operators.

25 (6) Workers supporting the energy grid.

- 1 (7) Pharmacists.
- 2 (8) Employees in the hospitality industry.
- 3 (9) Employees in the cybersecurity industry.
- 4 (10) Mortuary service employees.
- 5 (11) Employees working in or operating drink-
- 6 ing water and wastewater facilities.
- 7 (12) Employees of banks.

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