

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 839

To prevent the enrichment of certain Government officers and employees or their families through Federal funds or contracting, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2017

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To prevent the enrichment of certain Government officers and employees or their families through Federal funds or contracting, 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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Public Service Spending Integrity Act”.

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

7 (1) Americans’ trust in government is essential
8 to our democracy.

1 (2) Allowing public service by an elected official
2 to seemingly converge with their own personal gain
3 is corrosive to Americans' faith in government.

4 (3) Members of Congress and the executive
5 branch have substantial power and discretion over
6 the disbursement of public funds, and with that
7 comes the obligation to create a barrier between
8 public service and personal gain.

9 **SEC. 2. LIMITATION ON USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS AND CON-**
10 **TRACTING AT BUSINESSES OWNED BY CER-**
11 **TAIN GOVERNMENT OFFICERS AND EMPLOY-**
12 **EES.**

13 (a) LIMITATION ON FEDERAL FUNDS.—

14 (1) PRESIDENT; VICE PRESIDENT; CABINET.—
15 Beginning in fiscal year 2017 and in each fiscal year
16 thereafter, no Federal funds may be obligated or ex-
17 pended for purposes of procuring goods or services
18 at any business owned or controlled by a covered in-
19 dividual or any family member of such an individual.

20 (2) MEMBERS OF CONGRESS.—Beginning in fis-
21 cal year 2017 and in each fiscal year thereafter, no
22 funds from a Members' Representational Allowance
23 of a Member of the House of Representatives (in-
24 cluding a Delegate or Resident Commissioner to the
25 Congress) or a Senators' Official Personnel and Of-

1 fice Expense Account may be obligated or expended
 2 for purposes of procuring goods or services at any
 3 business owned or controlled by the Member of Con-
 4 gress or any family member of such a Member.

5 (b) PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTS.—No federal agen-
 6 cy may enter into a contract with a business owned or
 7 controlled by a covered individual or any family member
 8 of such an individual.

9 (c) DETERMINATION OF OWNERSHIP.—For purposes
 10 of this section, a business shall be deemed to be owned
 11 or controlled by a covered individual or any family member
 12 of such an individual, or a Member of Congress or a family
 13 member of such a Member, if the covered individual or
 14 member of family or the Member of Congress or member
 15 of family (as the case may be)—

16 (1) is a member of the board of directors or
 17 similar governing body of the business; or

18 (2) directly or indirectly owns or controls 51
 19 percent or more of the voting shares of the business.

20 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

21 (1) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered
 22 individual” means—

23 (A) the President;

24 (B) the Vice President;

1 (C) the head of any Executive department
2 (as that term is defined in section 101 of title
3 5, United States Code); and

4 (D) any individual occupying a position
5 designated by the President as a Cabinet-level
6 position.

7 (2) FAMILY MEMBER.—The term “family mem-
8 ber” means an individual with any of the following
9 relationships to a covered individual or a Member of
10 Congress:

11 (A) Spouse, and parents thereof.

12 (B) Sons and daughters, and spouses
13 thereof.

14 (C) Parents, and spouses thereof.

15 (D) Brothers and sisters, and spouses
16 thereof.

17 (E) Grandparents and grandchildren, and
18 spouses thereof.

19 (F) Domestic partner and parents thereof,
20 including domestic partners of any individual in
21 paragraphs (2) through (5).

22 (3) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “federal
23 agency” has the meaning given that term in section
24 102 of title 40, United States Code.

1 (4) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term “Mem-
2 ber of Congress” has the meaning given that term
3 in section 2106 of title 5, United States Code, but
4 does not include the Vice President.

