

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2861

To improve transparency regarding the activities of the American Red Cross,
and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2019

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi introduced the following bill; which was referred
to the Committee on Foreign Affairs

A BILL

To improve transparency regarding the activities of the
American Red Cross, 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 “American Red Cross
5 Transparency Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE OVER-**
7 **SIGHT.**

8 Section 300111 of title 36, United States Code, is
9 amended to read as follows:

1 **“§ 300111. Authority of the Comptroller General of**
2 **the United States**

3 “(a) AUDIT AUTHORITY.—The Comptroller General
4 of the United States is authorized to review—

5 “(1) the internal governance of the corporation;
6 and

7 “(2) any program or activity connected to na-
8 tional preparedness, including any program or activ-
9 ity carried out by the corporation in connection with
10 events for which the Federal Government provides
11 leadership or support under the national prepared-
12 ness system established under section 644 of the
13 Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act
14 of 2006 (6 U.S.C. 744; enacted as title VI of the
15 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations
16 Act, 2007), or any successor system.

17 “(b) ACCESS AUTHORITY.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying
19 out this section, the Comptroller General of the
20 United States shall have access to and the right to
21 examine and copy all records and other recorded in-
22 formation, electronic or otherwise, within the posses-
23 sion or control of the corporation that the Comp-
24 troller General determines relevant to a review au-
25 thorized under subsection (a), including such records
26 and other recorded information relating to the finan-

1 cial transactions and internal governance of the cor-
2 poration.

3 “(2) INDIVIDUALS.—The Comptroller General
4 shall be provided access to, and be permitted to
5 interview, any member of the board of governors,
6 employee, volunteer, or agent of the corporation
7 whom the Comptroller General believes to have
8 knowledge relevant to a review authorized under
9 subsection (a).

10 “(c) ENFORCEMENT.—

11 “(1) SUBPOENA AUTHORITY.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—If the corporation
13 does not make available a record, other re-
14 corded information, or a member of the board
15 of governors, employee, volunteer, or agent of
16 the corporation upon a request under sub-
17 section (b), the Comptroller General of the
18 United States may issue a subpoena for the
19 record or other recorded information or to ob-
20 tain the testimony of the member of the board
21 of governors, employee, volunteer, or agent.

22 “(B) ISSUANCE.—A subpoena issued under
23 this paragraph—

24 “(i) shall identify the record, other re-
25 corded information, or member of the

1 board of governors, employee, volunteer, or
2 agent of the corporation sought; and

3 “(ii) may be issued by the Comptroller
4 General.

5 “(C) SERVICE.—The Comptroller General
6 shall have an individual serve a subpoena issued
7 under this paragraph by delivering a copy to
8 the chief executive officer of the corporation or
9 by mailing a copy of the subpoena by certified
10 or registered mail, return receipt requested, to
11 the principal place of business of the corpora-
12 tion. Proof of service is shown by a verified re-
13 turn by the individual serving the subpoena
14 that states how the subpoena was served or by
15 the return receipt signed by the person served.

16 “(2) ACTION.—If the corporation does not com-
17 ply with a subpoena issued under paragraph (1), the
18 Comptroller General of the United States, acting
19 through an attorney the Comptroller General des-
20 ignates in writing, may bring a civil action in the
21 United States District Court for the District of Co-
22 lumbia to require the corporation to produce the
23 record, other recorded information, or member of the
24 board of governors, employee, volunteer, or agent
25 that is the subject of the subpoena. The court shall

1 have jurisdiction of such action and may punish a
2 failure to obey an order of the court under this sub-
3 section as a contempt of court.”.

○