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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To allow members of Congress access to certain Federal buildings, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. BEYER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To allow members of Congress access to certain Federal
buildings, 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 “Congressional Over-
5 sight and Agency Access Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ACCESS TO FEDERAL BUILDINGS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Each Member of Congress and
8 congressional staff member shall have access to any public
9 building during regular business hours.

1 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—

2 (1) IDENTIFICATION.—A Member of Congress
3 seeking access to a public building under this section
4 shall provide congressional identification.

5 (2) CONGRESSIONAL STAFF.—A congressional
6 staff member shall have access to a public building
7 under this section only if—

8 (A) such staff member is accompanied by
9 the Member of Congress that employs the staff
10 member; and

11 (B) such staff member provides a valid
12 congressional staff identification badge upon
13 seeking access to such building.

14 (3) 24 HOUR ACCESS.—At the request of a
15 Member of Congress or a congressional staff mem-
16 ber, such Member or staff member shall have access
17 to a public building outside of regular business
18 hours not later than 24 hours after such request is
19 made.

20 (c) ACCESSIBILITY DURING PUBLIC MEETINGS.—In
21 the case in which a Member of Congress or a congressional
22 staff member is seeking access to a public building under
23 this section during a public meeting, such Member of Con-
24 gress or congressional staff member shall have immediate
25 access to such building.

1 (d) EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—The require-
2 ments of subsection (a) shall apply during an extenuating
3 circumstance and any restriction on access to a building
4 that is imposed on the public during such a circumstance
5 shall not apply to a Member of Congress or an applicable
6 congressional staff member.

7 (e) AREAS REQUIRING SECURITY CLEARANCE.—
8 With respect to any part of a public building for which
9 a security clearance is required for entry, not later than
10 24 hours after a Member of Congress, or a congressional
11 staff member with the appropriate level of security clear-
12 ance, requests access to such part of the building, the
13 Member or congressional staff member shall have—

14 (1) access to such part of the building if the
15 Member (or the staff of such Member) is a member
16 of a congressional committee with jurisdiction over
17 the applicable agency; or

18 (2) if the Member (or the staff of such Mem-
19 ber) is not a member of such a congressional com-
20 mittee, access to such part of the building if the
21 Member has the consent of the Chair or Ranking
22 Member of such congressional committee.

23 (f) RESTRICTION ON MODIFICATION.—With respect
24 to a building to which access under this section is re-
25 quested, no temporary modifications to such building may

1 be made to alter what may be observed by a Member of
2 Congress or congressional staff member.

3 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ACCESS.—The term “access” means mean-
5 ingful access to and observation of all parts of a
6 public building in order for a Member of Congress
7 to satisfy the constitutional oversight responsibility
8 of such Member.

9 (2) CONGRESSIONAL IDENTIFICATION.—The
10 term “congressional identification” means any form
11 of identification issued to Members by the Clerk or
12 Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives
13 (in the case of a Member of the House of Represent-
14 atives) or by the Secretary or Sergeant at Arms and
15 Doorkeeper of the Senate (in the case of a Senator).

16 (3) CONGRESSIONAL STAFF MEMBER.—The
17 term “congressional staff member” means a full-
18 time staff member of the House of Representatives
19 or the Senate.

20 (4) EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCE.—The term
21 “extenuating circumstance” means an event for
22 which—

23 (A) the President has declared an emer-
24 gency pursuant to section 202 of the National
25 Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622); or

1 (B) the Secretary of Health and Human
2 Services has declared an emergency pursuant to
3 section 319 of the Public Health Service Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 247d).

5 (5) MEMBER OF CONGRESS.—The term “Mem-
6 ber of Congress” means a Member of the House of
7 Representatives or a Senator.

8 (6) PUBLIC BUILDING.—The term “public
9 building” has the meaning given such term in sec-
10 tion 3301 of title 40, United States Code, and in-
11 cludes—

12 (A) contractor owned and operated facili-
13 ties;

14 (B) facilities used through an intergovern-
15 mental service agreement with local jurisdic-
16 tions; and

17 (C) facilities under contract with a Federal
18 entity.