

meaning you have got to have a great team, both in the district, as well as here in the U.S. Capitol; from the legislative side of things, as well as making sure that your constituency has the best customer service there is.

We have had an amazing team. To be able to help people in our community with all of the different challenges they have faced with Social Security, or VA benefits, or visas, we have had an amazing team there to help out. To help our veterans receive the benefits that they deserve and have earned, we have had a great team to help out.

We have passed a number of pieces of legislation because we have had a team here in Washington, D.C. that is focused on delivering for our community, for our State, and for our country.

And for that, I need to thank our entire team, from my chief of staff: Jim Kjol in the State Senate; to Jason Larrabee here, starting from my first days; to now, Bret Manley, my current chief of staff. We have had teams that have been managed by great individuals.

On the personal front, you can't do this job without having a spouse that is there with you through all of the challenges of campaigns, schedules, and traveling. I have had the best partner, friend, and companion. Sonia has put up with a lot, and she has also enjoyed the ride that we have had together.

It has been an amazing journey that my kids have taken part in, to have my son and daughter not only face the challenges of kids growing up in a political family, but also having the great accomplishments side by side with their father.

Mr. Speaker, I will address the rest of my remarks in the coming minutes.

□ 1230

FAREWELL TO CONGRESS

(Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DENHAM).

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, continuing with my family, Sonia, from our earliest days of dating and putting up with the travels of my commitment to serve my country in the Air Force, to my kids facing the challenges of traveling in this job, I thank them.

I also want to thank those who have elected me and who put their faith and trust in me to allow me to work hard for them. It has been a tremendous journey, one that I have been privileged to have had, both from my family and from our community.

I have made great friendships here, from the wolf pack to my legislators who have come here with me, some amazing relationships, and it has been a great honor to serve with them, to work with them, and to enjoy our time together.

Lastly, to my parents, my mom, who has been so proud of me: Mom, I just say to please stay off Facebook. Thank you to my father, who has passed, for giving me the strength and the confidence to do anything that I wanted to do in life, and to my grandfather, who encouraged me to get into public service. It has been their support as well as my brother, sister, and business partner who have allowed me to spend my time serving my community and serving my country.

Mr. Speaker, it has been a great ride, and I thank them all.

CONGRESSIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1995 REFORM ACT

Mr. HARPER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (S. 3749) to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to reform the procedures provided under such Act for the initiation, review, and resolution of claims alleging that employing offices of the legislative branch have violated the rights and protections provided to their employees under such Act, including protections against sexual harassment, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BYRNE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Mississippi?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 3749

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; REFERENCES IN ACT; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 Reform Act”.

(b) REFERENCES IN ACT.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to or repeal of a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to that section or other provision of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1301 et seq.).

(c) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; references in Act; table of contents.

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation, Preliminary Review, and Resolution of Claims

Sec. 101. Description of procedures available for consideration of alleged violations.

Sec. 102. Reform of process for initiation of procedures.

Sec. 103. Preliminary review of claims by hearing officer.

Sec. 104. Availability of mediation during process.

Subtitle B—Other Reforms

Sec. 111. Requiring Members of Congress to reimburse Treasury for amounts paid as settlements and awards in cases of acts by Members.

Sec. 112. Automatic referral to Congressional Ethics Committees of disposition of certain claims alleging violations of Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 involving Members of Congress and senior staff.

Sec. 113. Availability of remote work assignment or paid leave of absence during pendency of procedures.

Sec. 114. Modification of rules on confidentiality of proceedings.

Sec. 115. Reimbursement by other employing offices of legislative branch of payments of certain awards and settlements.

TITLE II—IMPROVING OPERATIONS OF OFFICE OF CONGRESSIONAL WORKPLACE RIGHTS

Sec. 201. Reports on awards and settlements.

Sec. 202. Workplace climate surveys of employing offices.

Sec. 203. Record retention.

Sec. 204. Confidential advisors.

Sec. 205. GAO study of management practices.

Sec. 206. GAO audit of cybersecurity.

TITLE III—MISCELLANEOUS REFORMS

Sec. 301. Application of Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008.

Sec. 302. Extension to unpaid staff of rights and protections against employment discrimination.

Sec. 303. Clarification of treatment of Library of Congress visitors.

Sec. 304. Notices.

Sec. 305. Clarification of coverage of employees of Helsinki and China Commissions.

Sec. 306. Training and education programs of other employing offices.

Sec. 307. Support for out-of-area covered employees.

Sec. 308. Renaming Office of Compliance as Office of Congressional Workplace Rights.

TITLE IV—EFFECTIVE DATE

Sec. 401. Effective date.

TITLE I—REFORM OF DISPUTE RESOLUTION PROCEDURES

Subtitle A—Reform of Procedures for Initiation, Preliminary Review, and Resolution of Claims

SEC. 101. DESCRIPTION OF PROCEDURES AVAILABLE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

(a) PROCEDURES DESCRIBED.—Section 401 (2 U.S.C. 1401) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 401. PROCEDURE FOR CONSIDERATION OF ALLEGED VIOLATIONS.

“(a) FILING AND REVIEW OF CLAIMS.—Except as otherwise provided, the procedure for consideration of an alleged violation of part A of title II consists of—

“(1) the filing of a claim by the covered employee alleging the violation, as provided in section 402;

“(2) the preliminary review of the claim, to be conducted by a hearing officer as provided in section 403;

“(3) mediation as provided in section 404, if requested and agreed to by the parties under that section; and

“(4) a formal hearing as provided in section 405, subject to Board review as provided in section 406 and judicial review in the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit as provided in section 407.

“(b) RIGHT OF EMPLOYEE TO FILE CIVIL ACTION.—

“(1) CIVIL ACTION.—Only a covered employee who has filed a claim timely as provided in section 402 and who has not submitted a request for a hearing on the claim pursuant to section 405(a) may, during the