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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to increase transparency with respect to duplication of benefits requirements, to amend the Small Business Act to notify disaster loan recipients of their ability to refuse assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Miss RICE of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to increase transparency with respect to duplication of benefits requirements, to amend the Small Business Act to notify disaster loan recipients of their ability to refuse assistance, 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 “Transparent Disaster
5 Relief Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. DUPLICATION OF BENEFITS.**

2 Section 312 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief
3 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5155) is
4 amended by adding at the end the following:

5 “(e) TRANSPARENCY.—

6 “(1) STATEMENT OF ACKNOWLEDGMENT.—The
7 President shall ensure that each person receiving
8 Federal assistance for a major disaster or emergency
9 signs a statement, as a condition of such assistance,
10 that acknowledges the requirements under this sec-
11 tion relating to duplication of benefits, including an
12 acknowledgment of the types of assistance that may
13 result in a duplication of benefits.

14 “(2) RECOUPMENT.—Not later than 90 days
15 after the date of enactment of this subsection, the
16 President shall ensure that any action to collect du-
17 plicative assistance from a recipient under this sec-
18 tion includes the provision to the recipient of all doc-
19 umentation used to determine the relevant duplica-
20 tion of benefits.”.

21 **SEC. 3. NOTIFICATION TO DISASTER LOAN RECIPIENTS.**

22 Section 7(b)(10) of the Small Business Act (15
23 U.S.C. 636(b)(10)) is amended—

24 (1) by amending the paragraph heading to read
25 as follows: “NOTIFICATION”;

1 (2) by striking “loan.” and inserting “loan;
2 and”;

3 (3) by striking “the applicant may submit” and
4 inserting “the applicant—
5 “(A) may submit”.

6 (4) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(B) is not required to accept the loan for
8 which the applicant applied, including for any
9 reason relating to eligibility for other Federal
10 assistance.”.