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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend titles 5, 31, and 44, United States Code, to improve the equitable provision of services to underserved communities and individuals, to establish an Agency Equity Advisory Team, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. PRESSLEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend titles 5, 31, and 44, United States Code, to improve the equitable provision of services to underserved communities and individuals, to establish an Agency Equity Advisory Team, 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 “Equity in Government
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS.**

2 (a) AGENCY STRATEGIC PLANS.—Section 306 of title
3 5, United States Code, is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(2), by inserting after “of
5 the agency” the following: “, with at least one goal,
6 or 20 percent of the total number of goals, which-
7 ever is greater, relating to improving the equitable
8 provision of services to underserved communities and
9 individuals”;

10 (2) in subsection (d), by inserting after “in
11 such a plan” the following: “, including nongovern-
12 mental organizations and other stakeholders, includ-
13 ing academic and research partners, State and local
14 governments, and community and advocacy groups,
15 that can address how to improve the equitable provi-
16 sion of services to underserved communities and in-
17 dividuals”; and

18 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-
19 section:

20 “(d) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—In this section and
21 sections 1115 and 1120 of title 31:

22 “(1) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each
23 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
24 each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the
25 United States, and each federally recognized Indian
26 Tribe.

1 “(2) UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES.—The term
2 ‘underserved communities’ means populations shar-
3 ing a particular characteristic, as well as geographic
4 communities, that have been systematically denied a
5 full opportunity to participate in aspects of eco-
6 nomic, social, and civic life.

7 “(3) UNDERSERVED INDIVIDUAL.—The term
8 ‘underserved individual’ means a member of any un-
9 derserved communities.”.

10 (b) AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLANS.—Section
11 1115(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

12 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting after “and
13 the next fiscal year” the following: “, with at least
14 one performance goal, or 20 percent of the total
15 number of performance goals, whichever is greater,
16 relating to improving the equitable provision of serv-
17 ices to underserved communities and individuals”;
18 and

19 (2) in paragraph (5)(E), by inserting after
20 “other agencies” the following: “, nongovernmental
21 organizations, and other stakeholders, including aca-
22 demic and research partners, State and local govern-
23 ments, and community and advocacy groups,”.

24 (c) AGENCY PRIORITY GOALS.—Section 1120(b)(1)
25 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting

1 after the first sentence the following: “At least one of the
2 priority goals of each agency, or 20 percent of the priority
3 goals of the agency, whichever is greater, shall be related
4 to improving the equitable provision of services to under-
5 served communities and individuals.”.

6 **SEC. 3. PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT OFFICERS.**

7 Section 1124 of title 31, United States Code, is
8 amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)(2)—

10 (A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “;
11 and” and inserting a semicolon;

12 (B) in subparagraph (F), by striking the
13 period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

14 (C) by inserting at the end the following:

15 “(G) establish and serve as the head of an
16 Agency Equity Advisory Team, with at least 10
17 members, that includes representation from at
18 least 10 of the following:

19 “(i) The head of the agency.

20 “(ii) Regulatory affairs senior des-
21 ignee.

22 “(iii) Counsel.

23 “(iv) Civil rights enforcement senior
24 designee.

1 “(v) Policy development senior des-
2 ignee.

3 “(vi) Chief Financial Officer, Con-
4 troller, or senior designee.

5 “(vii) Chief Data Officer or senior
6 designee.

7 “(viii) Chief Science Officer or senior
8 designee.

9 “(ix) Chief Human Capital Officer or
10 senior designee.

11 “(x) Evaluation Officer or senior des-
12 ignee.

13 “(xi) Statistical official.

14 “(xii) Procurement senior designee.

15 “(xiii) Customer or user experience
16 leadership.

17 “(xiv) Communications or public af-
18 fairs senior designee.

19 “(xv) Public engagement senior des-
20 ignee.”; and

21 (2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the
22 following new paragraph:

23 “(4) EQUITY SUBCOMMITTEE.—

24 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
25 lished an Equity Subcommittee of the Perform-

1 ance Improvement Council, consisting of mem-
2 bers of that Council, to be selected by the
3 Council.

4 “(B) FUNCTIONS.—The Equity Sub-
5 committee of the Performance Improvement
6 Council shall—

7 “(i) assist the Director of the Office
8 of Management and Budget in identifying
9 guidance agencies need on how to provide
10 services more equitably and developing
11 such guidance;

12 “(ii) facilitate the sharing of informa-
13 tion across agencies regarding practices
14 that have led to the more equitable provi-
15 sion of services;

16 “(iii) coordinate with the Equitable
17 Data Working Group of the Chief Data
18 Officer Council (established pursuant to
19 section 3520A of title 44) to ensure that
20 agencies share best practices related to the
21 equitable collection and use of data; and

22 “(iv) solicit input from nongovern-
23 mental organizations, State and local gov-
24 ernments, and recipients of government

1 services to determine best practices for
2 providing government services equitably.”.

3 **SEC. 4. CHIEF DATA OFFICERS.**

4 Title 44, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) in section 3520(c)—

6 (A) in paragraph (13), by striking “; and”
7 and inserting a semicolon;

8 (B) in paragraph (14) by striking the pe-
9 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

10 (C) by inserting at the end the following
11 new paragraph:

12 “(15) ensure the agency applies the rec-
13 ommendations of the Chief Data Officer Council de-
14 veloped pursuant to paragraphs (1) through (5) of
15 section 3520A(b).”; and

16 (2) in section 3520A—

17 (A) in subsection (b)—

18 (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “the
19 use” and inserting “the equitable use”;

20 (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “be-
21 tween agencies” and inserting “between
22 agencies, academic and research partners,
23 State and local governments, community
24 and advocacy groups, and other stake-
25 holders”;

1 (iii) in paragraph (3), by striking
2 “policymaking” and inserting “equitable
3 policymaking”;

4 (iv) in paragraph (4), by striking “ac-
5 cess” and inserting “equitable access”; and

6 (v) in paragraph (5), by striking “col-
7 lection” and inserting “equitable collec-
8 tion”;

9 (B) in subsection (d), by striking “the
10 Council.” and inserting “the Council, including
11 the work of the Equitable Data Working
12 Group.”;

13 (C) by amending subsection (e) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(e) EVALUATION AND TERMINATION.—

16 “(1) GAO EVALUATION OF COUNCIL.—Not
17 later than 4 years after the date of the enactment
18 of this paragraph, the Comptroller General shall
19 submit to Congress a report on whether the addi-
20 tional duties of the Council, including the Equitable
21 Data Working Group, improved the equitable collec-
22 tion and use of evidence, including for program eval-
23 uation, in the Federal Government.

24 “(2) TERMINATION OF COUNCIL.—The Council,
25 including the Equitable Data Working Group, shall

1 not terminate until at least two years after the date
2 on which the Comptroller General submits the report
3 under paragraph (1) to Congress.”; and

4 (D) by adding at the end the following new
5 subsections:

6 “(f) EQUITABLE DATA WORKING GROUP.—

7 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established
8 within the Council an Equitable Data Working
9 Group.

10 “(2) PURPOSE AND FUNCTIONS.—The Equi-
11 table Data Working Group shall ensure that the
12 Council prioritizes equity when carrying out the
13 functions of the Council described in paragraphs (1)
14 through (5) of subsection (b).

15 “(3) MEETINGS; REPORTS.—Not less frequently
16 than once per quarter, the Equitable Data Working
17 Group shall meet submit to the Chief Data Officer
18 Council a written report with recommendations on
19 how to execute the functions described in paragraphs
20 (1) through (5) of subsection (b) to better achieve
21 equitable methods and outcomes.

22 “(4) MEMBERSHIP.—

23 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Council shall se-
24 lect a subset of the members of the Council to

1 serve as members of the Equitable Data Work-
2 ing Group.

3 “(B) CHAIR.—The Chair of the Council
4 shall select the Chair of the Equitable Data
5 Working Group from among the members of
6 the Equitable Data Working Group.

7 “(g) STATE DEFINED.—In this section and section
8 1124 of title 31, the term ‘State’ means each State of the
9 United States, the District of Columbia, each common-
10 wealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and
11 each federally recognized Indian Tribe.”.