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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the disclosure of information relating to the cost of programs,
projects, or activities carried out using Federal funds.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To require the disclosure of information relating to the cost
of programs, projects, or activities carried out using Fed-
eral funds.

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 “Cost Openness and
5 Spending Transparency Act of 2023” or the “COST Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS FOR FEDERAL**
2 **FUNDS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter III of chapter 13 of
4 title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
5 end the following:

6 **“§ 1356. Disclosure requirements for Federal funds**

7 “(a) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘agency’
8 means—

9 “(1) an Executive agency, as defined in section
10 105 of title 5; and

11 “(2) an independent regulatory agency, as de-
12 fined in section 3502 of title 44.

13 “(b) DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.—An agency and
14 an individual or entity (including a State or local govern-
15 ment and a recipient of a Federal research grant) carrying
16 out a program, project, or activity that is, in whole or in
17 part, carried out using Federal funds shall clearly state
18 in any statement, press release, request for proposals, bid
19 solicitation, or other document describing the program,
20 project, or activity, other than a communication con-
21 taining not more than 280 characters—

22 “(1) the percentage of the total costs of the
23 program, project, or activity which will be financed
24 with Federal funds;

1 “(2) the dollar amount of the Federal funds
2 made available for the program, project, or activity;
3 and

4 “(3) the percentage of the total costs of, and
5 dollar amount for, the program, project, or activity
6 that will be financed by nongovernmental sources.

7 “(c) CERTIFICATION.—An individual or entity car-
8 rying out a program, project, or activity that is, in whole
9 or in part, carried out using Federal funds shall, as part
10 of the performance progress reporting regarding the pro-
11 gram, project, or activity, include a certification indicating
12 whether the individual or entity complied with the disclo-
13 sure requirements.

14 “(d) COMPLIANCE REVIEW.—The Director of the Of-
15 fice of Management and Budget shall annually—

16 “(1) review a random sampling of public com-
17 munications issued by agencies and recipients of
18 Federal funds for compliance with the disclosure re-
19 quirements under subsection (b); and

20 “(2) make publicly available the findings of the
21 review under paragraph (1).

22 “(e) PUBLIC REPORTING.—Not later than 1 year
23 after the date of enactment of this section, the Director
24 of the Office of Management and Budget shall make avail-
25 able to the public a mechanism to anonymously report

1 communications that do not comply with the disclosure re-
2 quirements under subsection (b), which shall require that
3 such a report include—

4 “(1) the noncompliant communication or, if
5 publicly available, the location of the noncompliant
6 communication; and

7 “(2) identifying information regarding the pro-
8 gram, project, or activity that is, in whole or in part,
9 carried out using Federal funds.”.

10 (b) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—

11 The table of sections for subchapter III of chapter 13 of
12 title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the
13 end the following:

“1356. Disclosure requirements for Federal funds.”.