

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4444

To establish in the Executive Office of the President an Office of Young Americans, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 2023

Mr. SOTO (for himself, Mr. ALLRED, Ms. STEVENS, and Ms. PETERSEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability

A BILL

To establish in the Executive Office of the President an Office of Young Americans, 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. OFFICE OF YOUNG AMERICANS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Execu-
5 tive Office of the President an Office of Young Americans
6 (referred to in this section as the “Office”), which shall
7 be headed by a Director (referred to in this section as the
8 “Director”).

9 (b) OFFICE LEADERSHIP.—

10 (1) APPOINTMENTS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The President shall ap-
2 point the Director and may appoint an Asso-
3 ciate Director of the Office.

4 (B) SINGLE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR.—The
5 President may not appoint an Associate Direc-
6 tor to serve in the Office concurrently with an-
7 other Associate Director.

8 (2) FUNCTIONS OF DIRECTOR.—

9 (A) DIRECTOR.—The Director shall—

10 (i) identify issues that primarily and
11 substantially affect young Americans, in-
12 cluding employment issues, education,
13 mental health, housing, and climate
14 change;

15 (ii) advise the President on—

16 (I) the engagement and involve-
17 ment of young Americans in the Fed-
18 eral Government; and

19 (II) the issues that primarily and
20 substantially affect young Americans;

21 (iii) support strategic coordination
22 and communication between the Executive
23 Office of the President and Federal agen-
24 cies with respect to activities pertaining to

1 issues primarily and substantially affecting
2 young Americans;

3 (iv) serve as the principal advisor to
4 the President on all issues primarily and
5 substantially affecting young Americans;

6 (v) make recommendations to the
7 President regarding youth engagement in
8 the Federal Government;

9 (vi) coordinate Federal activities to
10 prepare for, and respond to, issues affect-
11 ing young Americans and engagement in
12 the Federal Government, by—

13 (I) providing strategic direction
14 to the heads of applicable Federal de-
15 partments, agencies, and offices;

16 (II) facilitating coordination and
17 communication between such Federal
18 departments, agencies, and offices to
19 improve youth engagement and in-
20 volvement across all Federal depart-
21 ments; and

22 (III) ensuring that the authori-
23 ties, capabilities, and expertise of each
24 such department, agency, and office
25 are appropriately leveraged to facili-

1 tate the whole-of-Government re-
2 sponse to issues related to young
3 Americans;

4 (vii) identify opportunities to leverage
5 current and emerging technologies, includ-
6 ing through public-private partnerships, as
7 appropriate, to address the future of the
8 Nation's workforce through the develop-
9 ment of skilled young Americans in these
10 fields and advance the preparedness and
11 response goals of the Federal Government;

12 (viii) work with relevant Federal offi-
13 cials to request funding through the Presi-
14 dent's Budgets and leverage programs of
15 Federal Agencies to address the issues
16 identified in the reports submitted under
17 subparagraph (e); and

18 (ix) perform such other functions and
19 activities as prescribed by the President.

20 (B) ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR.—The Associate
21 Director of the Office shall perform such func-
22 tions as the Director may prescribe.

23 (3) COMPENSATION.—

24 (A) DIRECTOR.—The Director shall be
25 compensated at the rate now or hereafter pro-

1 vided for level II of the Executive Schedule
2 under section 5313 of title 5, United States
3 Code.

4 (B) ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR.—The Associate
5 Director shall be compensated at a rate not ex-
6 ceeding the rate now or hereafter provided for
7 level III of the Executive Schedule under sec-
8 tion 5314 of title 5, United States Code.

9 (c) ADDITIONAL FUNCTIONS OF THE DIRECTOR.—
10 The Director, in addition to the other duties and functions
11 set forth in this section—

12 (1) shall—

13 (A) serve as a member of the Domestic
14 Policy Council; and

15 (B) seek to consult with State, Tribal,
16 local, and territorial governments, industry,
17 academia, professional societies, and other indi-
18 viduals and entities, as the Director deems ap-
19 propriate, to identify issues that primarily and
20 substantially affect young Americans; and

21 (2) may—

22 (A) use for the administration of the Of-
23 fice, on a reimbursable basis, the available serv-
24 ices, equipment, personnel, and facilities of
25 Federal agencies; and

1 (B) hold such hearings in various parts of
2 the United States as the Director determines
3 necessary to determine the views of the entities
4 and individuals described in paragraph (1)(B)
5 and of the general public concerning national
6 needs and trends in—

7 (i) the engagement and involvement of
8 young Americans in the Federal Govern-
9 ment; and

10 (ii) issues that primarily and substan-
11 tially affect young Americans.

12 (d) STAFFING AND DETAILEES.—In carrying out
13 functions under this section, the Director may—

14 (1) appoint individuals to not more than two
15 full time equivalent positions in the Office;

16 (2) fix the compensation of individuals ap-
17 pointed to such positions at a rate to be determined
18 by the Director, up to the amount of annual com-
19 pensation (excluding expenses) specified in section
20 102 of title 3, United States Code; and

21 (3) use the services of consultants, which may
22 include by obtaining services described under section
23 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates not
24 to exceed the rate of basic pay for level IV of the
25 Executive Schedule.

1 (e) PREPAREDNESS OUTLOOK REPORTS.—Not later
2 than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act,
3 and not less frequently than once every five years there-
4 after, the Director, in consultation with the heads of rel-
5 evant Federal departments and agencies and other offi-
6 cials within the Executive Office of the President, shall
7 submit to the President, the Committees on Finance and
8 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate,
9 and the Committees on Financial Services and on Edu-
10 cation and the Workforce of the House of Representatives,
11 and make publicly available, a report—

12 (1) identifying and describing issues that war-
13 rant special attention from the President or the
14 heads of such Federal agencies within the next 5
15 years regarding issues that primarily and substan-
16 tially affect young Americans, including the effects
17 of the policies, actions, and personnel of Federal
18 agencies on the engagement and involvement of
19 young Americans in the Federal Government; and

20 (2) providing recommendations and resource re-
21 quirement for addressing the issues identified under
22 paragraph (1).

23 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 (1) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal
2 agency” has the meaning given “Executive agency”
3 in section 105 of title 5, United State Code.

4 (2) YOUNG AMERICAN.—The term “young
5 American” means an individual who is a citizen or
6 lawful permanent resident of the United States be-
7 tween the ages of 18 and 40 years old.

○