

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To prohibit the use of Federal funds by the Department of Health and Human Services, before November 3, 2020, on a public service announcement and advertising campaign intended to positively influence public perception, misrepresent facts, or encourage risky behavior, regarding the COVID–19 pandemic.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To prohibit the use of Federal funds by the Department of Health and Human Services, before November 3, 2020, on a public service announcement and advertising campaign intended to positively influence public perception, misrepresent facts, or encourage risky behavior, regarding the COVID–19 pandemic.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Defeat Pandemic  
3 Propaganda Act of 2020”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 Congress finds that—

6 (1) over 200,000 Americans have died of  
7 COVID–19;

8 (2) there is no vaccine for COVID–19 approved  
9 by the Food and Drug Administration;

10 (3) on August 31, 2020, the Department of  
11 Health and Human Services signed an approxi-  
12 mately \$250,000,000 contract for a public service  
13 announcement and advertising campaign to, in part,  
14 “defeat despair and inspire hope, sharing best prac-  
15 tices for businesses to operate in the new normal  
16 and instill confidence to return to work and restart  
17 the economy” amidst the COVID–19 pandemic; and

18 (4) a presidential election is to be held on No-  
19 vember 3, 2020, approximately 2 months from the  
20 date the contract was signed.

21 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

22 It is the sense of the Congress that—

23 (1) a public service announcement and adver-  
24 tising campaign to promote a return to previous ac-  
25 tivities amidst the COVID–19 pandemic could en-

1       courage Americans to defy recommendations by Fed-  
2       eral, State, and local public health authorities; and

3           (2) a public service announcement and adver-  
4       tising campaign promoting a positive outlook on a  
5       pandemic that has resulted in the deaths of over  
6       200,000 Americans, to air in the weeks preceding a  
7       presidential election, would be an unethical use of  
8       Federal funds.

9       **SEC. 4. NO FEDERAL FUNDS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE AN-**  
10           **NOUNCEMENT AND ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN.**

11       No Federal funds may be obligated or expended by  
12       the Department of Health and Human Services, before  
13       November 3, 2020, on a public service announcement and  
14       advertising campaign intended—

15           (1) to positively influence public perception re-  
16       garding the COVID–19 pandemic;

17           (2) to misrepresent facts regarding the  
18       COVID–19 pandemic; or

19           (3) to encourage engagement in activities that  
20       carry an undue risk of contracting COVID–19.