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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish an alternative metric for measuring the net benefits of economic activity, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish an alternative metric for measuring the net benefits of economic activity, 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 “Genuine Progress Indi-
5 cator Act” or the “GPI Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. GENUINE PROGRESS INDICATOR.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of

1 Commerce (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”),
2 acting through the Director of the Bureau for Economic
3 Analysis, shall establish a metric to be known as the “gen-
4 uine progress indicator” to measure the economic well-
5 being of households, calculated through adjustments to
6 gross domestic product that account for positive and nega-
7 tive economic, environmental, and social factors that con-
8 tribute to economic activity, including the factors de-
9 scribed in subsection (b).

10 (b) FACTORS.—The genuine progress indicator estab-
11 lished under subsection (a) shall include the following:

12 (1) BENEFITS.—With respect to benefits, the
13 total annual economic value of—

14 (A) personal consumption expenditures,
15 net of investments, and defensive spending;

16 (B) the purchase of consumer durables and
17 other household durables used for home im-
18 provement, including appliances, vehicles, and
19 solar panels;

20 (C) publicly provided goods and services;

21 (D) higher education;

22 (E) job skills that are essential to an econ-
23 omy that—

24 (i) is self-sufficient; and

- 1 (ii) addresses ecological scarcities and
- 2 directs resources to sustainable develop-
- 3 ment without degrading the environment;
- 4 (F) time spent toward leisure activities;
- 5 (G) unpaid labor, including—
- 6 (i) parenting;
- 7 (ii) volunteering; and
- 8 (iii) time spent on household duties;
- 9 (H) infrastructure, including—
- 10 (i) transportation systems;
- 11 (ii) communication networks; and
- 12 (iii) sewage, water, and electric sys-
- 13 tems; and
- 14 (I) ecosystem services with respect to pro-
- 15 tected natural areas, including—
- 16 (i) flood control;
- 17 (ii) water purification;
- 18 (iii) pollination of crops;
- 19 (iv) control of pests and invasive
- 20 species;
- 21 (v) outdoor recreation;
- 22 (vi) hunting and fishing;
- 23 (vii) harvesting of plants for medicinal
- 24 and edible purposes;
- 25 (viii) carbon sequestration; and

1 (ix) maintenance of biological and ge-
2 netic diversity.

3 (2) COSTS.—With respect to costs, the total an-
4 nual economic costs of—

5 (A) income inequality based on household
6 expenditures;

7 (B) underemployment and unemployment;

8 (C) homelessness;

9 (D) domestic abuse;

10 (E) violent, property, white-collar, and or-
11 ganized crime;

12 (F) water, air, and noise pollution at the
13 household and national level;

14 (G) the loss of farmland and productive
15 soils, including soil quality degradation;

16 (H) the loss of natural wetlands, primary
17 forest area, and other at-risk ecosystems;

18 (I) high amounts of carbon dioxide and
19 other greenhouse gas emissions;

20 (J) the depletion of the ozone layer;

21 (K) the depletion of nonrenewable sources
22 of energy;

23 (L) lost leisure time due to traffic conges-
24 tion; and

25 (M) accidents involving motor vehicles.

1 (c) USE OF GENUINE PROGRESS INDICATOR.—Not
2 later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this
3 Act, the head of each Federal agency, the President, the
4 Chair of the Federal Reserve, and Congress shall, with
5 respect to any budgetary reporting and economic fore-
6 casting involving a measure of the net benefits of economic
7 activity, use both the genuine progress indicator estab-
8 lished pursuant to subsection (a) and gross domestic prod-
9 uct, including—

10 (1) with respect to the Director of the Congres-
11 sional Budget Office, the report submitted pursuant
12 to section 202(e)(1) of the Congressional Budget
13 Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 602(e)(1));

14 (2) with respect to the President—

15 (A) each budget proposal submitted pursu-
16 ant to section 1105 of title 31, United States
17 Code; and

18 (B) each report submitted pursuant to sec-
19 tion 4 of the Employment Act of 1946 (15
20 U.S.C. 1022a);

21 (3) with respect to the Chair of the Federal Re-
22 serve, the report submitted pursuant to section
23 225b(b) of the Federal Reserve Act of 1913 (12
24 U.S.C. 225b(b)); and

25 (4) with respect to Congress—

1 (A) each economic report submitted by the
2 committee established under section 11 of the
3 Employment Act of 1946 (15 U.S.C. 1024);
4 and

5 (B) each tax investigation report developed
6 by the Joint Committee on Taxation pursuant
7 to section 8022 of the Internal Revenue Code of
8 1986.

9 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
10 of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
11 Secretary and the Director of the Congressional Budget
12 Office shall submit to Congress a report on—

13 (1) the development of the genuine progress in-
14 dicator under subsection (a);

15 (2) the cost of such development; and

16 (3) the utility of the genuine progress indicator
17 with respect to measuring the net benefits of eco-
18 nomic activity.

19 (e) FEDERAL AGENCY DEFINED.—The term “Fed-
20 eral agency” has the meaning given that term in section
21 551 of title 5, United States Code.