

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4000

To authorize States to bring civil actions against the Government of the People’s Republic of China for harm suffered by the State as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2023

Mr. SANTOS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To authorize States to bring civil actions against the Government of the People’s Republic of China for harm suffered by the State as a result of 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “CCP Virus Reimburse-
5 ment For States Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. CIVIL ACTION AUTHORIZED FOR STATES RELATED**
7 **TO COVID–19 HARM.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provi-
9 sion of law (including chapter 85 of title 28, United States

1 Code, commonly referred to as the “Foreign Sovereign Im-
2 munities Act”) a State may bring an action for damages
3 in an appropriate district court of the United States
4 against the Government of the People’s Republic of China
5 for harm suffered by the State as a result of the COVID-
6 19 pandemic.

7 (b) PAYMENT BY UNITED STATES.—If a State is
8 awarded damages in an action under this section, and the
9 Government of the People’s Republic of China has not sat-
10 isfied such award before the date that is one year after
11 the date on which the damages were awarded, the State
12 may seek an order from the court directing the United
13 States to pay such award to the State. The payment by
14 the United States of any such award shall be deducted
15 from any interest or debt owed by the United States to
16 the People’s Republic of China, or from any amounts
17 made available to provide United States assistance to the
18 People’s Republic of China.

19 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “harm”
20 includes costs associated with—

- 21 (1) the payment of overtime to frontline work-
22 ers;
- 23 (2) purchasing masks and sanitizing products;
- 24 (3) purchasing vaccines;
- 25 (4) research and development;

1 (5) developing COVID–19 testing sites and
2 testing individuals for COVID–19;

3 (6) purchasing medical equipment related to
4 COVID–19;

5 (7) unemployment payments; and

6 (8) laws to provide other assistance during the
7 COVID–19 pandemic.

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