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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Black Lung Benefits Act to provide adequate benefits for miners suffering from black lung disease, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Black Lung Benefits Act to provide adequate benefits for miners suffering from black lung disease, 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 “Support Our Miners
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Tens of thousands of coal miners across the
2 country are disabled by, or have died from, black
3 lung disease. Such miners and their families rely on
4 black lung benefits as provided under section 412 of
5 the Black Lung Benefits Act (30 U.S.C. 922) to pay
6 for their healthcare and to provide monthly com-
7 pensation.

8 (2) When section 412 of the Black Lung Bene-
9 fits Act (30 U.S.C. 922) was enacted in 1969, a
10 miner received about \$144.50 per month to help
11 support their cost of living, equating to about
12 \$1,252.53 annually in today’s currency, adjusting
13 for inflation.

14 (3) The benefit rate, as established in 1969,
15 has not kept up with the cost of living. Today, min-
16 ers receive nearly 40 percent less than the value of
17 the original amount adjusting for inflation.

18 **SEC. 3. ADEQUATE BENEFITS FOR MINERS.**

19 Section 412(a) of the Black Lung Benefits Act (30
20 U.S.C. 922(a)(1)) is amended in the first paragraph—

21 (1) by striking “during the disability” and in-
22 serting “during the disability:”;

23 (2) by striking “at a rate” and inserting the
24 following:

1 “(A) For any calendar year preceding
2 2026, at a rate”; and

3 (3) by striking “step 1.” and inserting “step 1.

4 “(B) For calendar year 2026, for each
5 month after the date of enactment of the Sup-
6 port Our Miners Act for which benefits are pay-
7 able to such miner, at a monthly pay rate equal
8 to the quotient of—

9 “(i) \$15,030, and

10 “(ii) 12.

11 “(C) For calendar year 2027 and each suc-
12 ceeding calendar year—

13 “(i) at an annual rate equal to the
14 product of—

15 “(I)(aa) for calendar 2027,
16 \$15,030; or

17 “(bb) for a calendar year after
18 calendar year 2027, the annual rate
19 determined under this subparagraph
20 for the calendar year immediately pre-
21 ceding the calendar year for which the
22 determination is being made under
23 this subparagraph, and

24 “(II) the greater of one or the
25 ratio of—

1 “(aa) the Consumer Price
2 Index for Urban Wage Earners
3 and Clerical Workers, as pub-
4 lished by the Bureau of Labor
5 Statistics, for the calendar year
6 immediately preceding the cal-
7 endar year for which the deter-
8 mination is being made under
9 this subparagraph; to

10 “(bb) such Consumer Price
11 Index for the second calendar
12 year preceding the calendar year
13 for which the determination is
14 being made under this subpara-
15 graph; and

16 “(ii) at a monthly rate equal to the
17 quotient of—

18 “(I) the annual rate determined
19 under clause (i) for the calendar year
20 for which the determination is being
21 made under this subparagraph; and

22 “(II) 12.”.