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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide early access to old-age insurance benefits for individuals engaged in physically demanding jobs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend title II of the Social Security Act to provide early access to old-age insurance benefits for individuals engaged in physically demanding jobs, 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 “Blue Collar Social Se-
5 curity Fairness Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. OLD-AGE INSURANCE BENEFITS FOR INDIVIDUALS**
2 **ENGAGED IN PHYSICALLY DEMANDING JOBS.**

3 (a) OLD-AGE INSURANCE BENEFITS.—Section
4 202(a)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(a)(2))
5 is amended by inserting after “62” the following: “(or,
6 in the case of such a fully insured individual who is a cov-
7 ered worker (as defined in section 216(m)), has attained
8 age 60)”.

9 (b) COVERED WORKER DEFINED.—Section 216 of
10 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 416) is amended by
11 adding at the end the following:

12 “Covered Worker

13 “(m)(1) The term ‘covered worker’ means an indi-
14 vidual who has earned—

15 “(A) 20 or more base points earned as de-
16 scribed in subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2); or

17 “(B) 15 or more adjusted points as described in
18 subparagraph (C) of paragraph (2).

19 “(2)(A) An individual shall be eligible to earn points
20 under subparagraph (B) and (C) for a calendar year if
21 the individual works at a physically demanding job not less
22 than 8 months in such calendar year.

23 “(B) An eligible individual shall earn 1 base point
24 for each calendar year under this subparagraph.

25 “(C) The number of points earned as described under
26 this subparagraph shall be determined as follows:

“If, on December 31 of a calendar year, the eligible individual is:	The number of points earned is:
Not less than 18 and not more than age 34	0.5
Not less than age 35 and not more than age 44	1
Not less than age 45 and not more than age 54	1.5
Not less than age 55	2

1 “(D)(i) Not later than 1 year after the date of enact-
2 ment of the Blue Collar Social Security Fairness Act, the
3 Commissioner of Social Security, in consultation with the
4 Secretary of Labor and Secretary of Health and Human
5 Services, shall publish, and update every 3 years there-
6 after, a list of occupations that are physically demanding
7 jobs for the purposes of this subsection. Such list shall
8 include each occupation that the Commissioner determines
9 qualify as a physically demanding job, and the calendar
10 years with respect to which such occupation qualifies as
11 a physically demanding job. The Commissioner may not
12 overturn or reverse any determination that an occupation
13 qualifies as a physically demanding job with respect to a
14 calendar year after publishing such determination.

15 “(ii) For the purposes of clause (i), an occupation
16 shall be determined to qualify as a physically demanding
17 job if the occupation, as a condition of employment, im-
18 poses on an individual substantial physical demands that
19 may be reasonably expected to diminish the ability of the
20 individual to perform such occupation, or other occupa-
21 tions imposing substantial physical demands, at an ad-
22 vanced age.”.

1 (c) INAPPLICABILITY OF EARLY RETIREMENT RE-
2 Duction.—Section 202(w) of the Social Security Act (42
3 U.S.C. 402(w)) is amended—

4 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “paragraph
5 (9)” and inserting “paragraphs (9) and (12)”; and
6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(12) This subsection shall not apply with re-
8 spect to the old-age benefit of an individual who is
9 a covered worker (as defined in section 216(m)).”.

10 (d) RETIREMENT EARNINGS TEST.—Section
11 203(f)(8) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 403(f)(8))
12 is amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (B)—

14 (A) in the matter preceding clause (i), by
15 striking “subparagraph (D)” and inserting
16 “subparagraphs (D) and (E)”; and

17 (B) in clause (ii), by inserting before “or
18 1992” the following: “, 2025 (with respect to
19 individuals who are not described in subpara-
20 graph (D) and are described in subparagraph
21 (F)),”; and

22 (2) by redesignating subparagraph (E) as sub-
23 paragraph (F) and inserting after subparagraph (D)
24 the following:

1 “(E) Notwithstanding any other provision of
2 this subsection (except for subparagraph (D)), the
3 exempt amount which is applicable to an individual
4 who is a covered worker (as defined in section
5 216(m)) shall be for each month of any taxable year
6 ending after 2026 and before 2028, \$833.33¹/₃.”.

7 (e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
8 this section shall apply with respect to benefits paid for
9 any month after 2026.