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SEC. 1001. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Constitution of the United States establishes the Federal Government by "We the People" and it exists to serve the people of the United States. However, the average person can reasonably conclude the Federal Government, and its physical core, Washington, D.C., is stacked against them.

(2) Washington is stacked against ordinary people when public institutions, including Congress itself, are captured by concentrated private interests and the gears of legislative machinery function to serve corporate power.

(3) Washington is stacked against ordinary people when gerrymandering predetermines the outcome of the vast majority of congressional contests and denies people meaningful say in selecting their representatives.

(4) Washington is stacked against ordinary people as the size of congressional districts and the cost of campaigns continue to grow, amplifying the voices of the small percent of mega-donors who deliver the lion's share of political contributions.

(5) Washington is stacked against ordinary people when Congress squanders time on wedge issues instead of core problems, and resists enacting popular, middle ground solutions to such wedge issues, where solutions would kill the golden goose who produces the twin bounties of partisan fealty and outrage-driven fundraising.

(6) Washington is stacked against ordinary people when public-facing parts of the Federal Government shut down whenever Congress refuses to meet its Constitutional responsibility to pass a budget. No other country on the planet engages in such dysfunction; it is a policy choice that can and should be changed.

(7) Washington is stacked against ordinary people when the Federal Government can conduct surveillance without meaningful checks. As artificial intelligence enables expansions of such surveillance, guidelines and guardrails for the 21st century must be established.

(8) Washington is stacked against ordinary people when complaints about government shortcomings go unanswered, if the individual can determine how to direct them through the maze of Federal bureaucracy.

(9) Washington is stacked against ordinary people when decision making and record keeping are done in darkness. Sunshine is a powerful disinfectant that can bring conflicts to light; the Freedom of Information Act and other accountability provisions can be strengthened.

(b) Purpose.—The purpose of this title is to unstack Washington by making the Federal Government more accessible, accountable, lawful, transparent, resilient, representative, and responsive to the people of the United States.

SEC. 1002. KEEPING THE FEDERAL SCHOOL FUNDING PROMISE.

(a) Findings.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 and section 611 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act are core Federal commitments to high-poverty schools and students with disabilities.

(2) While the POPULIST Act will reduce hunger and poverty with universal school meals and the American Union Jobs Program, it should not reduce Federal, State, or local support for public schools.

(3) Therefore, additional Federal school funding is needed to keep the United States' school funding promise.

(b) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Covered fiscal year.—The term "covered fiscal year" means fiscal year 2027, 2028, 2029, or 2030.

(2) IDEA section 611 grants.—The term "IDEA section 611 grants" means grants under section 611 of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([20 U.S.C. 1411](#)).

(3) Secretary.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Education.

(4) Title I grants.—The term "Title I grants" means grants under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.](#)).

(c) Title I funding floors.—For each covered fiscal year, there are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to ensure that the total amount made available for Title I grants is not less than—

- (1) \$22,853,242,000 for fiscal year 2027;
- (2) \$25,464,349,000 for fiscal year 2028;
- (3) \$28,373,788,000 for fiscal year 2029; and
- (4) \$31,615,646,000 for fiscal year 2030.

(d) IDEA funding floors.—For each covered fiscal year, there are authorized to be appropriated, and there are appropriated out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, such sums as may be necessary to ensure that the total amount made available for IDEA section 611 grants is not less than—

- (1) \$19,531,844,000 for fiscal year 2027;
- (2) \$22,896,084,000 for fiscal year 2028;
- (3) \$26,839,795,000 for fiscal year 2029; and
- (4) \$31,462,786,000 for fiscal year 2030.

(e) Availability.—Amounts appropriated under subsections (c) and (d) for a covered fiscal year shall become available for obligation on July 1 of such fiscal year and shall remain available through September 30 of the succeeding fiscal year.

(f) No reduction due to universal school meals.—For each covered fiscal year, the Secretary, each State educational agency, and each local educational agency shall ensure that no State educational agency, local educational agency, school attendance area, or public school receives a reduced allocation, ranking, weighting, eligibility determination, or funding amount under Title I grants solely because universal school meals are provided without charge, household school-meal

applications are no longer collected, or school meal eligibility data are no longer available in the same form.

(g) Title I allocation stabilization.—For each covered fiscal year, in making allocations for Title I grants, the Secretary shall use the greater of—

(1) the formula-child counts and other allocation data otherwise applicable for that fiscal year after application of subsection (f); or

(2) the average formula-child counts and other allocation data used for fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026, adjusted by the Secretary to reflect material changes in student enrollment or school-age population.

(h) Maintenance of State effort for Title I grants.—For each covered fiscal year, a State receiving funds made available under subsection (c) shall not reduce State financial support for free public elementary and secondary education below the greater of—

(1) the amount provided for the preceding fiscal year, adjusted by the Secretary to reflect material changes in student enrollment; or

(2) the average annual amount provided for fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026, adjusted by the Secretary to reflect material changes in student enrollment.

(i) Maintenance of State effort for IDEA grants.—For each covered fiscal year, a State receiving funds made available under subsection (d) shall not reduce State financial support for special education and related services for children with disabilities below the greater of—

(1) the amount provided for the preceding fiscal year, adjusted by the Secretary to reflect material changes in the number of children with disabilities served by the State; or

(2) the average annual amount provided for fiscal years 2024, 2025, and 2026, adjusted by the Secretary to reflect material changes in the number of children with disabilities served by the State.

(j) Local maintenance of effort.—A local educational agency receiving funds under subsection (c) or (d) shall maintain fiscal effort in accordance with section 8521 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 ([20 U.S.C. 7901](#)) and section 613(a)(2)(A)(iii) of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act ([20 U.S.C. 1413\(a\)\(2\)\(A\)\(iii\)](#)), as applicable.

(k) Supplement, not supplant.—Funds made available under this section shall be used only to supplement, and not supplant, State and local funds that would, in the absence of such Federal funds, be made available for free public elementary and secondary education, Title I programs, special education, or related services.

(l) Enforcement.—If the Secretary determines that a State or local educational agency has reduced financial support in violation of subsection (h), (i), or (j), or has used funds in violation of subsection (k), the Secretary shall reduce, recover, or withhold funds made available under subsection (c) or (d), as applicable, in an amount proportional to the reduction in required fiscal effort or the amount supplanted.

(m) Waiver.—The Secretary may waive subsection (h), (i), or (j) only for exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances, including a natural disaster, a material decline in student enrollment, a material decline in the number of children with disabilities served, or a precipitous and unforeseen decline in State or local revenues, except that a revenue decline caused by tax reductions, rebates, credits, exclusions, deductions, or other discretionary reductions in revenue shall not constitute exceptional or uncontrollable circumstances.

(n) Report to Congress.—Not later than January 1, 2029, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report recommending permanent school funding formulas that measure educational need without relying on poverty paperwork, school-meal eligibility, or other pre-Jubilee proxies.

Subtitle A—Good Government

SEC. 1011. ENDING GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWNS.

(a) Definitions.—In this section:

(1) Account.—The term "account" means any account of the United States Government for which budget authority was provided in the preceding fiscal year, excluding any account funded by permanent or indefinite appropriation under any other provision of law.

(2) Activity.—The term "activity" means any activity funded through an account for the preceding fiscal year for which a program or project was carried out.

(3) Automatic continuing appropriation.—The term "automatic continuing appropriation" means budget authority made available under subsection (b) or subsection (h) for any account, program, project, benefit payment, or activity.

(4) Benefit payment.—The term "benefit payment" means any payment to an individual or entity made under mandatory spending authority or entitlement authority in the preceding fiscal year, excluding any benefit payment made from a trust fund or account funded by permanent or indefinite appropriation.

(5) Congressional employee.—The term "congressional employee" means an employee of the personal office of a Member of Congress, an employee of a committee of either House of Congress, or an employee of a joint committee of Congress.

(6) Gross domestic product price index.—The term "gross domestic product price index" means the implicit price deflator for the gross domestic product published by the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

(7) Lapse in appropriations.—The term "lapse in appropriations" means, with respect to an account, program, project, benefit payment, or activity, any period during a fiscal year during which budget authority for that account, program, project, benefit payment, or activity has not been enacted or is no longer available, and no continuing appropriation or other temporary budget authority is in effect for that account, program, project, benefit payment, or activity, and ending on the date such budget authority is enacted or again becomes available.

(8) Member of Congress.—The term "Member of Congress" has the meaning given that term in [section 2106 of title 5](#), United States Code.