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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. RES. _____

Permitting parental remote voting by proxy, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. PETERSEN submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

RESOLUTION

Permitting parental remote voting by proxy, and for other
purposes.

1 *Resolved,*

2 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

3 This resolution may be cited as the “Proxy Voting
4 for New Parents Resolution”.

5 **SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF REMOTE VOTING BY PROXY IN**

6 **HOUSE AND IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

7 **FOR MEMBERS BECOMING PARENTS.**

8 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding rule III, in
2 the case of a Member who has given birth or whose
3 spouse has given birth, such Member may designate
4 another Member as a proxy who may cast the vote
5 of such Member or record the presence of such
6 Member in the House and in the Committee of the
7 Whole House on the state of the Union in accord-
8 ance with this section.

9 (2) PERIOD OF AUTHORIZATION.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided
11 under subparagraph (B), the authority to vote
12 by proxy or record a presence pursuant to para-
13 graph (1) shall begin on the date of the birth
14 and shall terminate 12 weeks thereafter.

15 (B) DESIGNATION PRIOR TO BIRTH.—Not-
16 withstanding subparagraph (A), a Member may
17 instead make a designation prior to the birth of
18 a child in the event that such Member's health
19 care provider advises that her pregnancy pre-
20 sents a serious medical condition or that she is
21 unable to travel safely. Such authority to vote
22 by proxy or record a presence shall terminate
23 12 weeks after the initial designation. Each
24 week prior to the birth of the child during
25 which a Member does not have a designated

1 proxy shall not constitute a week for purposes
2 of this subparagraph.

3 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION BY MEM-
4 BER.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—In order for a Member to
6 designate another Member as a proxy under sub-
7 section (a), the Member shall submit to the Clerk a
8 signed and dated letter (which may be in electronic
9 form). Such letter must be submitted prior to the
10 start of the first vote in which the Member wishes
11 to vote by proxy and must include—

12 (A) an affirmative statement of—

13 (i) the birth of a child in the case of
14 a designation under subparagraph (A) of
15 subsection (a)(2); or

16 (ii) the existence of a medical condi-
17 tion related to pregnancy as stipulated by
18 the Member's health care provider in the
19 case of a designation under subparagraph
20 (B) of subsection (a)(2);

21 (B) a statement of intent to vote by proxy,
22 including the name and State of the Member
23 who has agreed to be designated as a proxy;
24 and

1 (C) an original signature of the Member
2 making the designation.

3 (2) ALTERATION AND REVOCATION.—At any
4 time after submitting a letter to designate a proxy
5 under paragraph (1), such Member may submit to
6 the Clerk a signed letter (which may be in electronic
7 form) altering or revoking the designation.

8 (3) AUTOMATIC REVOCATION UPON CASTING OF
9 VOTE OR RECORDING OF PRESENCE.—If a Member
10 who has designated another Member as a proxy
11 under this section casts the Member's own vote or
12 records the Member's own presence in the House or
13 in the Committee of the Whole House on the state
14 of the Union, the Member shall be considered to
15 have revoked the designation of any proxy under this
16 section. Revocation of proxy does not prohibit a
17 Member from designating a proxy at a later time.

18 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF CLERK.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—Upon receipt of a letter sub-
20 mitted by a Member pursuant to subsection (b), the
21 Clerk shall—

22 (A) verify the letter;

23 (B) notify the Speaker, the Majority Lead-
24 er, the Minority Leader, and the other Member

1 or Members involved in the designation, alter-
2 ation, or revocation; and

3 (C) if a letter is missing any of the items
4 under subsection (b)(1), notify the submitting
5 Member of the deficiency, which shall result in
6 the proxy being unable to vote on the Member's
7 behalf.

8 (2) MAINTENANCE OF LIST.—The Clerk shall
9 maintain an updated list of the active designations,
10 alterations, and revocations pursuant to this section
11 and shall make such list publicly available in elec-
12 tronic form.

13 (d) PROCEDURES FOR CASTING VOTES OR RECORD-
14 ING PRESENCE BY PROXIES.—

15 (1) USE OF BALLOT CARD.—In the case of a
16 vote by electronic device, a Member who casts a vote
17 or records a presence as a designated proxy for an-
18 other Member under this section shall do so by bal-
19 lot card, indicating on the ballot card “by proxy”.

20 (2) INSTRUCTIONS FROM MEMBER.—Prior to
21 casting the vote or recording the presence of another
22 Member as a designated proxy under this section,
23 the Member shall obtain an exact instruction from
24 the other Member with respect to such vote. The
25 Member voting by proxy, to the maximum extent

1 practicable, shall provide written voting instruction
2 to the Member serving as proxy.

3 (3) RECOGNITION BY CHAIR.—Immediately
4 prior to casting the vote or recording the presence
5 of another Member as a designated proxy under this
6 section, the Member shall seek recognition from the
7 Chair to announce the intended vote or recorded
8 presence pursuant to the exact instruction received
9 from the other Member under paragraph (2).

10 (4) FOLLOWING INSTRUCTIONS FROM MEM-
11 BER.—A Member casting the vote or recording the
12 presence of another Member as a designated proxy
13 under this section shall cast such vote or record such
14 presence pursuant to the exact instruction received
15 from the other Member under paragraph (2).

16 (e) PROHIBITING USE OF PROXY TO ESTABLISH
17 QUORUM.—Any Member whose vote is cast or whose pres-
18 ence is recorded by a designated proxy under this section
19 shall not be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum
20 under the rules of the House.

21 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF REMOTE VOTING BY PROXY IN**
22 **COMMITTEE FOR MEMBERS BECOMING PAR-**
23 **ENTS.**

24 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding rule XI, a
25 Member who has designated another Member as a proxy

1 who may cast the vote of such Member under section 2
2 may designate a member of each committee on which the
3 Member sits as a proxy who may cast the vote of such
4 Member in committee in accordance with this section dur-
5 ing the same period in which another Member is author-
6 ized to cast the vote of such Member under section 2.

7 (b) REQUIREMENTS FOR DESIGNATION.—In order
8 for a Member to designate a committee member as a proxy
9 under subsection (a), the Member shall submit to the chair
10 and ranking minority member a signed and dated letter
11 (which may be in electronic form) specifying by name the
12 other Member who is designated as a proxy for such Mem-
13 ber. Such letter must be submitted prior to the start of
14 the first committee meeting in which the Member wishes
15 to vote by proxy.

16 (c) ALTERATION AND REVOCATION.—At any time
17 after submitting a letter to designate a proxy under sub-
18 section (b), such Member may submit to the chair and
19 ranking minority member a signed letter (which may be
20 in electronic form) altering or revoking the designation.

21 (d) AUTOMATIC REVOCATION UPON CASTING OF
22 VOTE OR RECORDING OF PRESENCE.—If a Member who
23 has designated another Member as a proxy under this sec-
24 tion casts the Member's own vote in a committee, the
25 Member shall be considered to have revoked the designa-

1 tion of proxy in that committee under this section. Revoca-
2 tion of proxy does not prohibit a Member from designating
3 a proxy at a later time.

4 (e) INSTRUCTIONS FROM MEMBER.—Prior to casting
5 the vote of another Member as a designated proxy under
6 this section, the Member shall obtain an exact instruction
7 from the other Member with respect to such vote. The
8 Member voting by proxy, to the maximum extent prac-
9 ticable, shall provide written voting instruction to the
10 Member serving as proxy.

11 (f) PROHIBITING USE OF PROXY TO ESTABLISH
12 QUORUM.—Any Member whose vote is cast in committee
13 by a designated proxy under this section shall not be
14 counted for purposes of establishing a quorum under the
15 rules of the committee.

16 **SEC. 4. APPLICATION TO DELEGATES AND THE RESIDENT**
17 **COMMISSIONER.**

18 For purposes of sections 2 and 3, the term “Member”
19 shall include a Delegate and the Resident Commissioner
20 and the term “State” shall include the District of Colum-
21 bia and a territory, except that—

22 (1) nothing in this section authorizes a Dele-
23 gate or the Resident Commissioner to cast a vote in
24 the House or record their presence in the House;
25 and

1 (2) a Delegate and the Resident Commissioner
2 may be designated as a proxy for purposes of section
3 2 only by a Delegate or the Resident Commissioner.