

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4460

To establish a task force within the Federal Trade Commission to advise on equity issues in the protection of consumers and to prevent unfair and deceptive acts or practices targeting or affecting consumers on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, and other protected characteristics, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 16, 2021

Ms. KELLY of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a task force within the Federal Trade Commission to advise on equity issues in the protection of consumers and to prevent unfair and deceptive acts or practices targeting or affecting consumers on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability, age, and other protected characteristics, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Consumer Equity Pro-
3 tection Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. TASK FORCE.**

5 (a) **ESTABLISHMENT OF TASK FORCE.**—The Chair-
6 man of the Federal Trade Commission shall establish a
7 task force within the Bureau of Consumer Protection (in
8 this section referred to as the “task force”) for the pur-
9 pose of advising the Commission on equity issues in the
10 protection of consumers and to assist the Commission with
11 the following:

12 (1) **OVERSIGHT.**—The task force shall collabo-
13 rate with other Commission staff and monitor the
14 market for unfair and deceptive acts and practices
15 targeting or affecting specific consumers or groups
16 of consumers on the basis of race, color, religion,
17 sex, national origin, sexual orientation, disability,
18 age, and other protected characteristics and shall co-
19 ordinate with other relevant agencies as appropriate
20 regarding the requirements of this section.

21 (2) **CONSUMER EDUCATION.**—The task force
22 shall collaborate with other relevant agencies, as ap-
23 propriate, and support Bureau of Consumer Protec-
24 tion staff in assisting the Commission to—

25 (A) disseminate broadly in a manner avail-
26 able to all general information on unfair and

1 deceptive acts and practices targeting or affect-
2 ing specific consumers or groups of consumers
3 on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, na-
4 tional origin, sexual orientation, disability, age,
5 and other protected characteristics, including
6 descriptions of the most common unfair or de-
7 ceptive acts or practices;

8 (B) disseminate broadly, in a manner
9 available to all, information on reporting com-
10 plaints of unfair and deceptive acts and prac-
11 tices targeting or affecting specific consumers
12 or groups of consumers on the basis of race,
13 color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual ori-
14 entation, disability, age, and other protected
15 characteristics, to the national toll-free tele-
16 phone number established by the Commission
17 for reporting such complaints and to
18 ReportFraud.ftc.gov (or another appropriate
19 website operated by the Commission, as deter-
20 mined by the Chairman of the Commission),
21 where such complaints will become available to
22 applicable law enforcement agencies, including
23 the Department of Justice, the Federal Bureau
24 of Investigation, and the attorneys general of
25 the States;

1 (C) provide publicly available information
2 of enforcement actions taken by the Commis-
3 sion related to unfair and deceptive acts and
4 practices targeting or affecting specific con-
5 sumers or groups of consumers on the basis of
6 race, color, religion, sex, national origin, sexual
7 orientation, disability, age, and other protected
8 characteristics;

9 (D) maintain a website to serve as a re-
10 source for information for the general public re-
11 garding unfair and deceptive acts and practices
12 targeting or affecting specific consumers or
13 groups of consumers on the basis of race, color,
14 religion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation,
15 disability, age, and other protected characteris-
16 tics; and

17 (E) make available the publicly available
18 information described in subparagraph (C) and
19 the website described in subparagraph (D) in
20 English and, to the extent practicable, in Span-
21 ish and any other relevant language.

22 (3) COMPLAINTS.—The task force shall collabo-
23 rate, as appropriate, and support Bureau of Con-
24 sumer Protection staff in assisting the Commission
25 to—

1 (A) log and acknowledge the receipt of
2 complaints by individuals who believe they have
3 been a victim of unfair and deceptive acts and
4 practices in the Consumer Sentinel Network,
5 and shall make those complaints available to
6 applicable Federal, State, and local law enforce-
7 ment authorities; and

8 (B) to the extent practicable and con-
9 sistent with existing law, provide to individuals
10 described in subparagraph (A), and to any
11 other persons, specific and general information
12 on unfair and deceptive acts and practices tar-
13 geting or affecting specific consumers or groups
14 of consumers on the basis of race, color, reli-
15 gion, sex, national origin, sexual orientation,
16 disability, age, and other protected characteris-
17 tics, including the most common such unfair or
18 deceptive acts or practices.

19 (b) COMMISSION DEFINED.—In this section, the term
20 “Commission” means the Federal Trade Commission.

21 (c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect
22 on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment
23 of this Act.

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