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PUBLIC INTEREST GROUPS DECRY HOUSE VOTE TO STRANGLE FEDERAL SAFEGUARDS

Measure Poses Threat to Food Safety, Workplace Safety, Environment, U.S. Financial System, Medicine and More

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Washington, D.C. – Members of the [Coalition for Sensible Safeguards](#) today decried the passage of [H.R. 4078](#) in the House of Representatives. The GOP-led bill calls for an unprecedented shutdown of the U.S. regulatory system. Members of the coalition, which includes a wide range of public interest groups, emphasized the harm the proposed law would inflict on millions of Americans by derailing rules that protect individual health and safety and bolster the nation’s economy.

COALITION FOR SENSIBLE SAFEGUARDS - MEMBER COMMENTS

Katherine McFate, president of [OMB Watch](#) and one of the co-chairs of the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards: “The U.S. regulatory system is the envy of the world. H.R. 4078 would undermine the system that has guaranteed Americans’ health and safety and quality of life for decades. It completely misdiagnoses our economic problems. Standards mean people trust that US products are safe and want to buy them. Standards give American businesses a competitive edge in the export market. Standards keep American businesses at the cutting edge of innovation and technology. If Republicans want to help small businesses, they should pass a jobs bill that gets people back to work and puts money in their pockets so they can buy more goods and services.”

Robert Weissman, president of [Public Citizen](#) and one of the co-chairs of the Coalition for Sensible Safeguards: “H.R. 4078 is a gift to the corporate criminal and wrongdoer lobby, pure and simple. We need tighter controls over the big banks that are fixing markets, ripping us off and resuming risky practices that threaten economic stability. We need stronger rules to prevent the epidemic of needless death and injury from workplace hazards. We need far-reaching rules to avert catastrophic climate change. We need rules to ensure the safety of our food supply. And we need the government to perform its everyday functions. H.R. 4078 would block all of those efforts, in the interest of protecting Wall Street and the polluters, reckless employers and corporations that put dangerous products on the market.”

Rachel Weintraub, director of product safety and senior counsel, [Consumer Federation of America](#): “We are profoundly disappointed that the House of Representatives voted today to pass a bill that would entirely thwart the ability of federal agencies to protect consumers from unsafe food,

predatory financial products, systemically risky financial practices, and dangerous consumer products,” stated. “This bill has extreme and negative consequences that will result in harm to American consumers and harm to the U.S. economy.”

Sean Helle, legislative counsel for [Earthjustice](#): “It’s a shame the House has passed legislation that would slash much-needed protections for our health, safety, and welfare in order to please the polluters’ lobby. This bill also gives polluters an unprecedented right to obstruct justice in court cases challenging unquestionably illegal activity—cases that are simply and efficiently resolved today. The sponsors pitched this measure as being essential to job creation. That’s simply not true. Threatening our food supply, the safety of our drinking water, and the viability of other programs that help American families while creating jobs is not a path forward for our nation. The House’s bill is no way to bolster our economy or inspire the American people.”

Natalie Roy, executive director of [Clean Water Network](#): “What’s next, banning stoplights? If the House continues on its current anti-regulatory crusade that just might happen. This ‘red tape’ bill should be renamed ‘code red’ because it will endanger the public health and safety of every American.”

Nasima Hossain, public health advocate for [U.S. Public Interest Research Group](#): “H.R. 4078 will shut down the entire regulatory system, this means our public health and consumer safeguards will not protect our citizens and in particular vulnerable groups like women, children and the elderly. We can’t afford to live in a world where public health takes a backseat to profits. But unfortunately that’s exactly where Congress is taking us.”

Celia Wexler, senior Washington representative, Scientific Integrity Program, [Union of Concerned Scientists](#): “By imposing a virtually air-tight moratorium on all significant regulations until the jobless rate dips to 6 percent, this bill radically challenges the scientific integrity of our established regulatory process and in doing so, jeopardizes Americans’ safety, health, and wellbeing. Emerging hazards do not wait for jobless rates to fall.”

Scott Slesinger, legislative director for [Natural Resources Defense Council](#): “This bill is a sad attempt to block virtually all manner of health, safety, economic and environmental protections for the foreseeable future, regardless of what we learn from science or experience. It amounts to ordering a government shutdown, and it is a kind of coup d’état by the most recalcitrant special interests. This will do nothing to create jobs, but it will prevent the nation from addressing real problems.”

Christine L. Owens, executive director of [National Employment Law Project](#): “Anyone wondering why public disdain for Congress is so high need look no further than today’s stunt by House Republicans, who passed radical anti-regulation measures that not only cynically pit those with jobs against those desperate to find them but also, if enacted into law, would threaten public and workplace safety—without creating a single good job.”

Peg Seminario, safety and health director for the [AFL-CIO](#): “Today House Republicans marched forward with their extreme right wing agenda – this time using the jobs crisis to pass a bill to shut down and block new government safeguards for years to come. This cynical measure won’t create any new

jobs. Instead it will put workers and the public in danger, stopping new safety rules to protect utility workers from electrocution and coal miners from black lung and rules to limit the power of big banks and corporations.”

For a list of some specific rules that H.R. 4078 would block, visit: <http://www.sensible safeguards.org/shutdown-bill-damaging>. For more information about the importance of safeguards, visit www.SensibleSafeguards.org.

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The Coalition for Sensible Safeguards is an alliance of consumer, small business, labor, scientific, research, good government, faith, community, health, environmental, and public interest groups, as well as concerned individuals, joined in the belief that our country’s system of regulatory safeguards provides a stable framework that secures our quality of life and paves the way for a sound economy that benefits us all. For more information about the coalition, see [http://www.sensible safeguards.org/about us](http://www.sensible safeguards.org/about_us).