To authorize and appropriate funding for grants to Amtrak for the restoration of long-distance routes and the rehiring of employees furloughed as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic.

A BILL

To authorize and appropriate funding for grants to Amtrak for the restoration of long-distance routes and the rehiring of employees furloughed as a result of the COVID–19 pandemic.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. GRANTS TO THE NATIONAL RAILROAD PASSENGER CORPORATION FOR LONG-DISTANCE SERVICE RESTORATION AND EMPLOYEE RECALLS.

(a) Appropriations.—In addition to amounts otherwise made available, there are appropriated for fiscal year
2021, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, $165,926,000, which shall remain available until September 30, 2024, for grants to the National Railroad Passenger Corporation (commonly known as "Amtrak").

(b) Use of Funds.—Grant funds appropriated under subsection (a) may be used by Amtrak—

(1) to restore, not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the frequency of rail service on long-distance routes (as defined in section 24102 of title 49, United States Code) that Amtrak reduced the frequency of on or after July 1, 2020, and continue to operate such service at such frequency; and

(2) to recall and manage employees furloughed on or after October 1, 2020, as a result of efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to the 2019 novel coronavirus disease pandemic.