

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5487

To improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 5, 2021

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER (for herself, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. MULLIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To improve research and data collection on stillbirths, 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Stillbirth Health Im-  
5 provement and Education for Autumn Act of 2021” or  
6 the “SHINE for Autumn Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. STILLBIRTH RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION IM-**  
2 **PROVEMENTS.**

3 Title III of the Public Health Service Act is amended  
4 by inserting after section 317L–1 of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
5 247b–13a) the following:

6 **“SEC. 317L–2. STILLBIRTH RESEARCH AND DATA COLLEC-**  
7 **TION IMPROVEMENTS.**

8 “(a) STILLBIRTH SURVEILLANCE AND RISK FACTOR  
9 STUDIES.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award  
11 grants to States for purposes of—

12 “(A) conducting surveillance and collecting  
13 data with respect to stillbirths; and

14 “(B) collecting and reporting data on still-  
15 birth risk factors, including any quantifiable  
16 outcomes with respect to such risk factors.

17 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

18 To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to  
19 be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
20 2022 through 2026.

21 “(b) GUIDELINES AND EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS  
22 MATERIALS.—

23 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

24 “(A) issue guidelines to State departments  
25 of health and State and local vital statistics  
26 units on—

1 “(i) collecting data on stillbirth from  
2 health care providers, and with the consent  
3 of the family involved, including any such  
4 data with respect to the clinical history,  
5 postmortem examination, and placental pa-  
6 thology; and

7 “(ii) sharing such data with Federal  
8 agencies determined appropriate by the Di-  
9 rector of the Centers for Disease Control  
10 and Prevention; and

11 “(B) develop, and make publicly available,  
12 educational awareness materials on stillbirths.

13 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out para-  
14 graph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

15 “(A) national health care professional as-  
16 sociations;

17 “(B) obstetricians and gynecologists;

18 “(C) pediatricians;

19 “(D) maternal-fetal medicine specialists;

20 “(E) midwives;

21 “(F) mental health professionals;

22 “(G) statisticians;

23 “(H) individuals who have experienced a  
24 stillbirth; and

1 “(I) advocacy organizations representing  
2 such individuals.

3 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
4 To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to  
5 be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
6 2022 through 2026.

7 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 “(1) STILLBIRTH.—The term ‘stillbirth’ means  
9 the death or loss of a baby before or during delivery,  
10 occurring at or after 20 weeks of pregnancy.

11 “(2) VITAL STATISTICS UNIT.—The term ‘vital  
12 statistics unit’ means the entity that is responsible  
13 for maintaining vital records for a State, or a polit-  
14 ical subdivision of such State, including official  
15 records of live births, deaths, fetal deaths, mar-  
16 riages, divorces, and annulments.”.

17 **SEC. 3. PERINATAL PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS.**

18 The Public Health Service Act is amended by insert-  
19 ing after section 1122 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 300c–12)  
20 the following:

21 **“SEC. 1123. IMPROVING PERINATAL PATHOLOGY.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
23 and implement a Perinatal Pathology Fellowship Program  
24 to—

1 “(1) provide postgraduate training in perinatal  
2 autopsy pathology;

3 “(2) conduct research on, and improve data col-  
4 lection with respect to, fetal autopsies; and

5 “(3) address challenges in stillbirth education,  
6 research, and data collection.

7 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
8 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
9 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.”.

10 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

11 (a) REPORT BY SURGEON GENERAL.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than five years  
13 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Surgeon  
14 General of the Public Health Service shall publish  
15 on a public website of the Department of Health and  
16 Human Services a report with educational guidelines  
17 on stillbirth and stillbirth risk factors.

18 (2) CONTENTS.—Such report shall include, to  
19 the extent practicable and appropriate, the guide-  
20 lines issued and educational awareness materials de-  
21 veloped under section 317L–2 of the Public Health  
22 Service Act, as added by section 2 of this Act.

23 (b) REPORT BY SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND  
24 HUMAN SERVICES.—Not later than five years after the  
25 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and

1 Human Services shall submit to the Congress a com-  
2 prehensive report on the progress and effectiveness of the  
3 Perinatal Pathology Fellowship Program established  
4 under section 1123 of the Public Health Service Act, as  
5 added by section 3 of this Act.

