

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5551

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. HUDSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, 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 “Improving the Health
5 of Children Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CENTER ON**
2 **BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DIS-**
3 **ABILITIES.**

4 Section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (42
5 U.S.C. 247b-4) is amended—

6 (1) by striking subsection (a)(4) and inserting
7 the following:

8 “(4) SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.—The Secretary, act-
9 ing through the Director of the Center, shall con-
10 tinue to carry out programs related to—

11 “(A) birth defects;

12 “(B) folic acid;

13 “(C) cerebral palsy;

14 “(D) intellectual disabilities;

15 “(E) child development;

16 “(F) newborn screening;

17 “(G) autism;

18 “(H) fragile X syndrome;

19 “(I) fetal alcohol syndrome;

20 “(J) pediatric genetic disorders;

21 “(K) disability prevention; and

22 “(L) or other relevant diseases, disorders,
23 or conditions, as determined the Secretary.”;

24 (2) in subsection (c), in the matter preceding
25 paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than February
26 1” and all that follows through “2 fiscal years—”

1 and inserting the following: “The Secretary shall
2 submit biennially to the Committee on Energy and
3 Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the
4 Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pen-
5 sions of the Senate, a report that—”; and

6 (3) in subsection (f), by striking “such sums as
7 may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003
8 through 2007” and inserting the following:
9 “\$175,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through
10 2026”.

11 **SEC. 3. FOLIC ACID EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.**

12 Section 317J(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42
13 U.S.C. 247b–11(e)) is amended by striking “such sums
14 as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2001
15 through 2005” and inserting “\$3,000,000 for each of fis-
16 cal years 2022 through 2026”.

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