

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1849

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish a core public health infrastructure program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 11, 2021

Miss RICE of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish a core public health infrastructure program, 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. CORE PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR**
4 **STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL**
5 **HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.**

6 (a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Health and Human
7 Services (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”), act-
8 ing through the Director of the Centers for Disease Con-

1 trol and Prevention, shall establish a core public health
2 infrastructure program consisting of awarding grants
3 under subsection (b).

4 (b) GRANTS.—

5 (1) AWARD.—For the purpose of addressing
6 core public health infrastructure needs, the Sec-
7 retary—

8 (A) shall award a grant to each State
9 health department; and

10 (B) may award grants on a competitive
11 basis to State, local, Tribal, or territorial health
12 departments.

13 (2) ALLOCATION.—Of the total amount of
14 funds awarded as grants under this subsection for a
15 fiscal year—

16 (A) not less than 50 percent shall be for
17 grants to State health departments under para-
18 graph (1)(A); and

19 (B) not less than 30 percent shall be for
20 grants to State, local, Tribal, or territorial
21 health departments under paragraph (1)(B).

22 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, local, Tribal, or terri-
23 torial health department receiving a grant under sub-
24 section (b) shall use the grant funds to address core public

1 health infrastructure needs, including those identified in
2 the accreditation process under subsection (g).

3 (d) FORMULA GRANTS TO STATE HEALTH DEPART-
4 MENTS.—In making grants under subsection (b)(1)(A),
5 the Secretary shall award funds to each State health de-
6 partment in accordance with—

7 (1) a formula based on population size, burden
8 of preventable disease and disability, and core public
9 health infrastructure gaps, including those identified
10 in the accreditation process under subsection (g);
11 and

12 (2) application requirements established by the
13 Secretary, including a requirement that the State
14 health department submit a plan that demonstrates
15 to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the State’s
16 health department will—

17 (A) address its highest priority core public
18 health infrastructure needs; and

19 (B) as appropriate, allocate funds to local
20 health departments within the State.

21 (e) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO STATE, LOCAL, TRIB-
22 AL, AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.—In
23 making grants under subsection (b)(1)(B), the Secretary
24 shall give priority to applicants demonstrating core public

1 health infrastructure needs identified in the accreditation
2 process under subsection (g).

3 (f) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—The Secretary may
4 award a grant to an entity under subsection (b) only if
5 the entity demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Sec-
6 retary that—

7 (1) funds received through the grant will be ex-
8 pended only to supplement, and not supplant, non-
9 Federal and Federal funds otherwise available to the
10 entity for the purpose of addressing core public
11 health infrastructure needs; and

12 (2) with respect to activities for which the grant
13 is awarded, the entity will maintain expenditures of
14 non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level
15 not less than the level of such expenditures main-
16 tained by the entity for the fiscal year preceding the
17 fiscal year for which the entity receives the grant.

18 (g) ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH ACCRED-
19 ITATION PROGRAM.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

21 (A) develop, and periodically review and
22 update, standards for voluntary accreditation of
23 State, local, Tribal, and territorial health de-
24 partments and public health laboratories for the

1 purpose of advancing the quality and perform-
2 ance of such departments and laboratories; and

3 (B) implement a program to accredit such
4 health departments and laboratories in accord-
5 ance with such standards.

6 (2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Secretary
7 may enter into a cooperative agreement with a pri-
8 vate nonprofit entity to carry out paragraph (1).

9 (h) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Con-
10 gress an annual report on progress being made to accredit
11 entities under subsection (g), including—

12 (1) a strategy, including goals and objectives,
13 for accrediting entities under subsection (g) and
14 achieving the purpose described in subsection
15 (g)(1)(A);

16 (2) identification of gaps in research related to
17 core public health infrastructure; and

18 (3) recommendations of priority areas for such
19 research.

20 (i) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “core pub-
21 lic health infrastructure” includes—

22 (1) workforce capacity and competency;

23 (2) laboratory systems;

24 (3) testing capacity, including test platforms,
25 mobile testing units, and personnel;

- 1 (4) health information, health information sys-
- 2 tems, and health information analysis;
- 3 (5) disease surveillance;
- 4 (6) contact tracing;
- 5 (7) communications;
- 6 (8) financing;
- 7 (9) other relevant components of organizational
- 8 capacity; and
- 9 (10) other related activities.

10 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
11 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
12 \$6,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022
13 through 2026.

14 **SEC. 2. CORE PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND AC-**
15 **TIVITIES FOR CDC.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
17 Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
18 tion, shall expand and improve the core public health in-
19 frastructure and activities of the Centers for Disease Con-
20 trol and Prevention to address unmet and emerging public
21 health needs.

22 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Con-
23 gress an annual report on the activities funded through
24 this section.

1 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “core
2 public health infrastructure” has the meaning given to
3 such term in section 1.

4 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
5 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
6 \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022
7 through 2026.

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