

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6363

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on funding to entities utilizing such funding for human genomic sequencing or genetic services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 10, 2022

Mr. BUCSHON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on funding to entities utilizing such funding for human genomic sequencing or genetic services.

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 “Genetic Sequencing
5 Accountability Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. GAO STUDY.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
8 United States (referred to in this section as the “Comp-

1 troller General”) shall conduct a study to assess the extent
2 to which the Department of Health and Human Services
3 (referred to in this section as the “Department”) utilizes
4 or provides funding to entities that utilize such funds for
5 human genomic sequencing services or genetic services (as
6 such term is defined in section 201(6) of the Genetic In-
7 formation Nondiscrimination Act of 2008 (42 U.S.C.
8 2000ff(6))) provided by entities organized under the laws
9 of a country or countries of concern, in the estimation of
10 the Director of National Intelligence or the head of an-
11 other Federal department or agency, as appropriate.

12 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the study
13 under this section, the Comptroller General shall—

14 (1) consider—

15 (A) what is known about the extent to
16 which the country or countries of concern could
17 obtain human genomic information of citizens
18 and residents of the United States from such
19 entities that sequence, analyze, collect, or store
20 human genomic information and which the Di-
21 rector of National Intelligence or the head of
22 another Federal department or agency reason-
23 ably anticipates may use such information in a
24 manner inconsistent with the national security
25 interests of the United States;

1 (B) whether the Department or recipient
2 of such funds from the Department sought to
3 provide funding to, or to use, domestic entities
4 with no such ties to the country or countries of
5 concern for such purposes and any barriers to
6 the use of domestic entities; and

7 (C) whether the Department has processes
8 in place to ensure that data use agreements,
9 data security measures, and other such meas-
10 ures taken by the Department or recipient of
11 such funds from the Department are sufficient
12 to protect the identifiable, sensitive information
13 of the people of the United States and the na-
14 tional security interests of the United States;
15 and

16 (2) make recommendations to address any
17 vulnerabilities to the United States national security
18 identified, as appropriate.

19 (c) ESTIMATION.—In conducting the study under this
20 section, the Comptroller General may, as appropriate and
21 necessary to complete such study, investigate specific in-
22 stances of such utilization of genetic sequencing services
23 or genetic services, as described in subsection (a), to
24 produce estimates of the potential prevalence of such utili-
25 zation among entities in receipt of Departmental funds.

1 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
2 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
3 submit a report on the study under this section to the
4 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
5 and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate,
6 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce and the Per-
7 manent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of
8 Representatives. The report shall be submitted in unclassi-
9 fied form, to the extent practicable, but may include a
10 classified annex.

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