
IN THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 4, 2020

Mr. VITA (author) and Mr. HARRIS (for themselves, Mr. BO, Mr. WINFIELD, Mr. PLURIBUS, Mr. LESTER, Mr. THUNDERWOOD, Mr. HULL, Mr. VEDAANT, Mr. MCKENNA, Mr. WONDER, Mr. MILLER, and Mr. BEAN) introduced the following bill;

AN ACT

To provide universal access to disease reporting resources including hotlines, diagnostic catalogs, and emergency authorization of in-home testing and amend CDC practices in defense of patient rights.

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Responsible Disease Containment Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO DISEASE REPORTING RESOURCES.

(a) NATIONAL DISEASE OUTBREAK REPORTING SYSTEM.—Section 319(d) of the Public Health Service Act of 1934 (42 U.S.C. 247d-4) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(2)(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary, shall maintain the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System, authorized under the assumption of responsibility for collecting and publishing such data by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(b) ACTIVITIES.—In maintaining the program, the activities of the Secretary shall include—

(1) maintaining a publicly accessible hotline to link callers to local emergency and social services resources, information on symptoms or for patients with positive test results, or testing centers in compliance with *all* requests for examination;

(2) publicly cataloging primers, protocols, and other elements of diagnostic “laboratory-developed” tests; and

(3) permitting the suspension of the Food and Drug Administration’s emergency use approval procedures during a public health emergency for qualified agencies upon condition of a filed request for authorization.

(b) Section 215(e) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 251(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) UNIVERSAL TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR DISEASE REPORTING.—The Commission and any agency or entity to which the Commission has delegated authority under this subsection shall designate 7–6–7 as the universal telephone number within the United States for the purpose of the national disease outbreak reporting hotline system operating through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System maintained by the Assistant Secretary under section 2822 of title 42, United States Code. The designation shall apply to both wireline and wireless telephone service.”

SEC. 3. AMENDING CDC PRACTICES IN DEFENSE OF PATIENT RIGHTS.

(a) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall be prohibited from engaging in the following practices:

- (1) Indefinitely detaining individuals for the purpose of “preventing the introduction, transmission, and spread of” a limited subset of quarantinable communicable diseases without the issuance of a formal public health order or heed towards conventional due process protections, with legal or medical justification produced by the agency within 24 hours;
- (2) Issuing quarantine-, waiting period-, or travel ban-based public health orders unless determined to be *necessary* and in the absence of *any less restrictive measures*;
- (3) Failing to request informed consent for all bodily invasive medical examinations and treatments, with the option of voluntary isolation in lieu of such procedures.

SEC. 4. ENFORCEMENT.—This Act shall be subject to enforcement and rule-making by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall go into effect immediately upon passage, subject to Congressional appropriations.
