

116TH CONGRESS 1ST SESSION H.R. 3446

To establish a National Commission on Fibrotic Diseases.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

June 24, 2019

Mr. King of New York (for himself, Mr. Engel, Mr. Thompson of Mississippi, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Ms. Jayapal, Miss Rice of New York, Mr. Clay, Mr. Levin of Michigan, and Mrs. Beatty) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a National Commission on Fibrotic Diseases.

- 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 "National Commission
- 5 on Scleroderma and Fibrotic Diseases Act of 2019".
- 6 SEC. 2. NATIONAL COMMISSION ON FIBROTIC DISEASES
- 7 RESEARCH.
- 8 (a) Establishment.—There is hereby established,
- 9 within the National Institutes of Health (in this section
- 10 referred to as "NIH"), a National Commission on Fibrotic

1	Diseases (in this section referred to as the "Commission")
2	to evaluate and make recommendations regarding im-
3	provements to the coordination and advancement of NIH-
4	supported research activities related to fibrosis and fi-
5	brotic diseases, which may include scleroderma as a
6	prototypical condition that can cause fibrosis in various
7	organs.
8	(b) Membership.—
9	(1) In General.—The Commission shall be
10	composed of the following voting members:
11	(A) The Director of NIH, or the designee
12	of such director.
13	(B) The Directors of the following Insti-
14	tutes, or the designees of such directors:
15	(i) National Institute of Arthritis and
16	Musculoskeletal and Skin Diseases.
17	(ii) National Heart, Lung, and Blood
18	Institute.
19	(iii) National Institute of Diabetes
20	and Digestive, and Kidney Diseases.
21	(iv) National Human Genome Re-
22	search Institute.
23	(v) Any other Institutes or Centers
24	with an active fibrotic disease research
25	portfolio.

1	(vi) Twelve additional voting members
2	appointed under paragraph (2).
3	(2) Additional members.—The Commission
4	shall include additional voting members, as may be
5	appointed by the Director of NIH, with expertise in
6	the prevention, care, and epidemiology of any of the
7	diseases and complications described in subsection
8	(a), including one or more such members from each
9	of the following categories:
10	(A) Leading scientists or physicians with
11	research expertise in the conditions described in
12	subsection (a).
13	(B) Patient and advocates with a perspec-
14	tive on the conditions described in subsection
15	(a).
16	(3) Chairperson.—The members of the Com-
17	mission shall select a chairperson from the members
18	appointed under paragraph (2).
19	(4) Meetings.—The Commission shall meet at
20	least three times a year, with the first meeting oc-
21	curring not later than April 1, 2021.
22	(5) Vacancies.—A vacancy on the Commission
23	shall be filled in the same manner as the original ap-
24	pointments.

1	(c) Responsibilities.—The duties of the Commis-
2	sion are the following:
3	(1) To study the incidence, duration, and mor-
4	tality rates of fibrotic diseases as described in sub-
5	section (a).
6	(2) To evaluate facilities and resources for the
7	diagnosis, prevision, and treatment of fibrotic dis-
8	eases described in subsection (a).
9	(3) To develop a long-range plan for the use
10	and organization of national resources to effectively
11	advance research and effectively deal with fibrotic
12	diseases as described in subsection (a), including—
13	(A) a comprehensive research plan, which
14	prioritizes fibrosis opportunities that have
15	cross-cutting value and require coordination
16	across multiple Institutes and Centers;
17	(B) topic-specific research recommenda-
18	tions for each organ or system as impacted by
19	fibrotic diseases described in subsection (a); and
20	(C) an overview of common themes and
21	specific steps for implementation.
22	(4) To make recommendations, as appropriate,
23	to the Director of NIH and Congress with respect
24	to the study, evaluation, and long-range plan de-

- 1 scribed in the preceding paragraphs of this sub-
- 2 section.
- 3 (d) Operating Plan.—Not later than 90 days after
- 4 its first meeting, the Commission shall submit to the Di-
- 5 rector of NIH and the Congress an operating plan for car-
- 6 rying out the duties of the Commission as described in
- 7 subsection (c). Such operating plan may include—
- 8 (1) a list of specific activities that the Commis-
- 9 sion plans to conduct for purposes of carrying out
- the duties described in each of the paragraphs in
- 11 subsection (c);
- 12 (2) a plan for completing the activities;
- 13 (3) a list of members of the Commission and
- other individuals who are not members of the Com-
- mission who will need to be involved to conduct such
- 16 activities;
- 17 (4) an explanation of NIH Institute and Center
- involvement and coordination needed to conduct
- 19 such activities;
- 20 (5) a budget for conducting such activities; and
- 21 (6) other information that the Commission
- deems appropriate.
- (e) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the
- 24 date of the Commission's first meeting, the Commission
- 25 shall submit to the Director of NIH and the Congress a

- 1 final report containing all of the findings and rec-
- 2 ommendation required by subsection (c).
- 3 (f) Sunset.—The Commission shall terminate 60
- 4 days after submitting its final report, but not later than

5 September 30, 2023.

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