

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 173

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary to make grants and enter into cooperative agreements with entities to expand and support activities with respect to the prevention and treatment of a covered condition, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 2021

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. DEAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. MENG, and Mr. SİRES) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary to make grants and enter into cooperative agreements with entities to expand and support activities with respect to the prevention and treatment of a covered condition, 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 “COVID–19 Prevention
5 and Awareness Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. COVID-19 PREVENTION AND AWARENESS GRANTS.**

2 Subpart I of part D of title III of the Public Health
3 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 330N. PROGRAM TO PREVENT AND TREAT COVERED**
6 **CONDITIONS.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
8 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
9 vention, may award grants and enter into cooperative
10 agreements with covered entities to expand and support
11 activities with respect to the prevention and treatment of
12 covered conditions, including—

13 “(1) conducting screenings, surveillance, and di-
14 agnostic testing for covered conditions;

15 “(2) providing guidance to individuals on such
16 prevention and treatment activities; and

17 “(3) providing guidance on vaccinations rec-
18 ommended by the Advisory Committee on Immuniza-
19 tion Practices established by the Secretary.

20 “(b) APPLICATION.—An entity seeking a grant under
21 this section shall submit an application to the Secretary
22 at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such
23 information as the Secretary may require.

24 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants or entering into
25 cooperative agreements under this section, the Secretary
26 shall give priority to—

1 “(1) federally qualified health centers (as de-
2 fined in section 330A);

3 “(2) community-based organizations; and

4 “(3) entities that have an agreement with a fed-
5 erally-qualified health center.

6 “(d) REPORTS.—

7 “(1) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—An entity that
8 receives a grant or enters into a cooperative agree-
9 ment under this section shall submit to the Sec-
10 retary a report that includes—

11 “(A) a description of each activity carried
12 out—

13 “(i) pursuant to the cooperative
14 agreement; or

15 “(ii) with amounts received through
16 the grant; and

17 “(B) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
18 each such activity.

19 “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3
20 years after the date of the enactment of this section,
21 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on
22 the effectiveness of the grants and cooperative agree-
23 ments entered into under this section.

24 “(e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—An entity re-
25 ceiving a grant under this section shall use grant amounts

1 to supplement, not supplant, any other Federal, State, and
2 local funds that would otherwise be expended by such enti-
3 ty to carry out the activities described in this section.

4 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

5 “(1) COVERED CONDITION.—The term ‘covered
6 condition’ means a disease or condition that has
7 been identified by the Centers for Disease Control
8 and Prevention to increase, or likely increase, the
9 risk of mortality from COVID–19 or to increase, or
10 likely increase, the risk of severe illness from
11 COVID–19, including the following:

12 “(A) Asthma.

13 “(B) Cancer.

14 “(C) Cerebrovascular disease.

15 “(D) Chronic kidney disease.

16 “(E) Chronic obstructive pulmonary dis-
17 ease.

18 “(F) Cystic fibrosis.

19 “(G) Hypertension or high blood pressure.

20 “(H) Liver disease.

21 “(I) Neurologic conditions, including de-
22 mentia.

23 “(J) Obesity.

24 “(K) Pregnancy.

25 “(L) Pulmonary fibrosis.

1 “(M) Serious heart conditions, including
2 heart failure, coronary artery disease, and car-
3 diomyopathy.

4 “(N) Sickle cell disease.

5 “(O) Pulmonary conditions resulting from
6 tobacco use.

7 “(P) Thalassemia.

8 “(Q) Tobacco use.

9 “(R) Type 1 and 2 diabetes mellitus.

10 “(S) Weakened immune system, including
11 from—

12 “(i) a solid organ transplant;

13 “(ii) a blood or bone marrow trans-
14 plant;

15 “(iii) the human immunodeficiency
16 virus; and

17 “(iv) the use of a corticosteroid or
18 other immune weakening medicine.

19 “(2) COVERED ENTITY.—The term ‘covered en-
20 tity’ includes the following:

21 “(A) Federally qualified health center (as
22 defined in section 330A).

23 “(B) Entity that has an agreement with a
24 federally qualified health center.

25 “(C) Community-based organization.

1 “(D) Faith-based organization.

2 “(E) Nonprofit organization.

3 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
 4 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
 5 priated \$2,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2021
 6 through 2022, to remain available until expended.

7 **“SEC. 3300. GRANT PROGRAM TO INCREASE AWARENESS**
 8 **OF THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN COVERED**
 9 **CONDITIONS AND COVID-19.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
 11 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
 12 vention, may award grants to entities to carry out a cam-
 13 paign to increase awareness of the relationship between—

14 “(1) covered conditions; and

15 “(2) the increased risk of developing a severe
 16 illness or mortality from COVID-19.

17 “(b) APPLICATION.—An entity seeking a grant under
 18 this section shall submit an application to the Secretary
 19 at such time, in such manner, and accompanied by such
 20 information as the Secretary may require, including a de-
 21 scription of how the entity intends to carry out the activi-
 22 ties specified in subsection (c).

23 “(c) CAMPAIGN ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out the
 24 campaign under subsection (a), an entity shall—

1 “(1) develop and disseminate informational ma-
2 terial—

3 “(A) that is culturally and linguistically
4 appropriate;

5 “(B) targeted toward communities and
6 populations that are at a high risk of—

7 “(i) developing a covered condition;
8 and

9 “(ii) contracting COVID–19;

10 “(C) that increases awareness of the safety
11 and effectiveness of a COVID–19 vaccine; and

12 “(D) that identifies locations in the com-
13 munity served by the entity where COVID–19
14 vaccines are administered;

15 “(2) consult with members of such communities
16 and populations to develop the informational mate-
17 rial under paragraph (1); and

18 “(3) disseminate informational material on
19 treatments available for covered conditions, includ-
20 ing, if applicable, treatments provided by the entity.

21 “(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
22 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to—

23 “(1) federally qualified health centers (as de-
24 fined in section 330A);

25 “(2) community-based organizations; and

1 “(3) entities that have an agreement with a fed-
2 erally qualified health center.

3 “(e) REPORTS.—

4 “(1) REPORT TO SECRETARY.—An entity that
5 receives a grant under this section shall submit to
6 the Secretary a report that includes—

7 “(A) a description of each activity carried
8 out with amounts received through the grant;
9 and

10 “(B) an evaluation of the effectiveness of
11 each such activity.

12 “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3
13 years after the date of the enactment of this section,
14 the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on
15 the effectiveness of the grants entered into under
16 this section.

17 “(f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—An entity re-
18 ceiving a grant under this section shall use grant amounts
19 to supplement, not supplant, any other Federal, State, and
20 local funds that would otherwise be expended by such enti-
21 ty to carry out the activities described in this section.

22 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23 “(1) COVERED CONDITION.—The term ‘covered
24 condition’ has the meaning given such term in sec-
25 tion 330N.

1 “(2) COVID–19 VACCINE.—The term ‘COVID–
2 19 vaccine’ means a vaccine that is intended to pre-
3 vent, mitigate, or treat the virus that causes
4 COVID–19 and—

5 “(A) is licensed under section 351 of the
6 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 262); or

7 “(B) authorized under section 564 of the
8 Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21
9 U.S.C. 360bbb–3).

10 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
11 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
12 priated \$120,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2021
13 through 2022, to remain available until expended.”.

○