

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 834

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 14, 2019

Mr. BROWN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, 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 “Comprehensive TB
5 Elimination Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING AND ELIMI-**
7 **NATING TUBERCULOSIS.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 317E of the Public
9 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–6) is amended—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

1 (A) by striking “The Secretary” and in-
 2 serting the following:

3 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary”; and

4 (B) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(2) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this
 6 subsection, the Secretary may give priority to award-
 7 ing grants to State health departments proposing to
 8 focus on the prevention, control, and elimination of
 9 tuberculosis in high-risk populations, including for-
 10 eign-born, homeless, incarcerated, HIV-tuberculosis
 11 coinfectd, and medically underserved populations.”;

12 (2) in subsection (b)—

13 (A) in paragraph (3)—

14 (i) in subparagraph (C), by redesign-
 15 ating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I)
 16 and (II), respectively, and adjusting the
 17 margins accordingly; and

18 (ii) by redesignating subparagraphs
 19 (A) through (F) as clauses (i) through (vi),
 20 respectively, and adjusting the margins ac-
 21 cordingly;

22 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (1)
 23 through (8) as subparagraphs (A) through (H),
 24 respectively, and adjusting the margins accord-
 25 ingly;

1 (C) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 2 (A), as so redesignated, by striking “With re-
 3 spect to” and inserting the following:

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to”;

5 (D) by striking subparagraph (B), as so
 6 redesignated, and inserting the following:

7 “(B) Research, investigations, experiments,
 8 demonstrations, and studies in the health
 9 sciences that are related to—

10 “(i) the development of new tools, in-
 11 cluding vaccines and antimicrobial drugs,
 12 to prevent and treat tuberculosis;

13 “(ii) novel therapeutics for special
 14 populations, including pediatric popu-
 15 lations, immunosuppressed individuals, and
 16 pregnant women;

17 “(iii) the development or testing of
 18 medical diagnostics to detect tuberculosis;

19 “(iv) research to address the epidemi-
 20 ology, mechanisms, and pathogenesis of tu-
 21 berculosis;

22 “(v) public health interventions to ad-
 23 dress the prevention, treatment, and con-
 24 trol of tuberculosis, such as directly ob-

served therapy and non-pharmaceutical
intervention;

“(vi) methods to enhance detection
and response to outbreaks of tuberculosis,
including multidrug resistant tuberculosis;
and

“(vii) other relevant research areas.”;

(E) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated—

(i) by redesignating clause (vi), as so redesignated, as clause (vii);

(ii) in clause (v), as so redesignated,
by striking “; and” and inserting “;”; and

(iii) by inserting after clause (v), as so redesignated, the following:

“(vi) the intensification of efforts to
prevent, detect, and treat latent tuberculosis; and”;

(F) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by inserting before the period the following: “, including public awareness campaigns and development of educational, risk, and media communications.”;

(G) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraphs (1) through

1 (4)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) through
 2 (D)”;

3 (H) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(2) SELECTION.—In carrying out the activities
 5 described in paragraph (1), the Secretary—

6 “(A) is encouraged to give priority to pro-
 7 grammatically relevant research so that new
 8 tools can be utilized in public health practice;
 9 and

10 “(B) may seek input from the Biomedical
 11 Advanced Research and Development Authority
 12 in identifying novel candidates to utilize in the
 13 efforts under this subsection to prevent, diag-
 14 nose, and control tuberculosis.”;

15 (3) by redesignating subsections (c) through (h)
 16 as subsections (d) through (i), respectively;

17 (4) by inserting after subsection (b) the fol-
 18 lowing—

19 “(c) GRANTS FOR COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS AND
 20 SERVICES FOR PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREAT-
 21 MENT.—

22 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary, acting through
 23 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Serv-
 24 ices Administration, may award grants to State and
 25 local governments and Federally qualified health

1 centers for coordinating the programs and services
 2 of such States, governments, and centers to ensure
 3 timely and appropriate prevention, risk-based screen-
 4 ing, diagnosis, and treatment of latent and active tu-
 5 berculosis.

6 “(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
 7 ‘Federally qualified health center’ has the meaning
 8 given to such term in section 1861(aa) of the Social
 9 Security Act.”;

10 (5) in subsections (d), (e), and (f), as so redes-
 11 igned, by striking “(a) or (b)” each place it ap-
 12 pears and inserting “(a), (b), or (c)”;

13 (6) in subsection (g)(4), as so redesignated, by
 14 adding at the end the following:

15 “(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Sec-
 16 retary is encouraged to make the reports under
 17 subparagraph (A), or other publications rel-
 18 evant to domestic tuberculosis surveillance, pub-
 19 licly available on the internet website of the
 20 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and
 21 to disseminate such information to stake-
 22 holders.”;

23 (7) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

24 (A) in paragraph (1)—

1 (i) by striking “research into new
 2 tools under subsection (b)(2)” and insert-
 3 ing “the research, investigations, experi-
 4 ments, demonstrations, and studies in
 5 health science under subsection (b)(1)(B)”;
 6 and

7 (ii) by inserting “ensuring access to
 8 the products developed as a result of such
 9 research, investigations, experiments, dem-
 10 onstrations, and studies and” after “advice
 11 regarding”; and
 12 (B) in paragraph (3)—

13 (i) by redesignating subparagraphs
 14 (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and
 15 (F), respectively; and

16 (ii) by inserting after subparagraph
 17 (C) the following:

18 “(D) members of the Biomedical Advanced
 19 Research and Development Authority;”; and

20 (8) in subsection (i)(1)(A), as so redesignated,
 21 by striking “\$200,000,000” and all that follows
 22 through the period and inserting “\$142,200,000 for
 23 fiscal year 2020, \$195,700,000 for fiscal year 2021,
 24 \$225,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, \$236,250,000 for

1 fiscal year 2023, \$248,062,500 for fiscal year 2024,
2 and \$260,465,625 for fiscal year 2025.”.

3 (b) NIH TUBERCULOSIS ACTIVITIES.—Section
4 424C(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
5 285b–7c(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and in-
6 serting the following:

7 “(1) enhancing basic, clinical, and operational
8 research on tuberculosis, including with respect to—

9 “(A) drug-resistant tuberculosis;

10 “(B) infection with tuberculosis and la-
11 tency and progression of tuberculosis; and

12 “(C) pediatric tuberculosis;”.

13 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.**

14 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment
15 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
16 shall issue a report on the coordination of efforts in the
17 United States to—

18 (1) prevent, control, and eliminate tuberculosis;

19 and

20 (2) implement the activities under section 317E
21 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–
22 6), as amended by this Act, and the National Action
23 Plan for Combating Multidrug-Resistant Tuber-
24 culosis, issued in December 2015.