

111TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3199

To amend the Public Health Service Act regarding early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 14, 2010

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. HARKIN) 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 regarding early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss.

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 “Early Hearing Detec-
5 tion and Intervention Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. EARLY DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT**
7 **OF HEARING LOSS.**

8 Section 399M of the Public Health Service Act (42
9 U.S.C. 280g–1) is amended—

1 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**IN-**
2 **FANTS**” and inserting “**NEWBORNS AND IN-**
3 **FANTS**”;

4 (2) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
6 by striking “screening, evaluation and interven-
7 tion programs and systems” and inserting
8 “screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and interven-
9 tion programs and systems, and to assist in the
10 recruitment, retention, education, and training
11 of qualified personnel and health care pro-
12 viders,”;

13 (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
14 follows:

15 “(1) To develop and monitor the efficacy of
16 statewide programs and systems for hearing screen-
17 ing of newborns and infants; prompt evaluation and
18 diagnosis of children referred from screening pro-
19 grams; and appropriate educational, audiological,
20 and medical interventions for children identified with
21 hearing loss. Early intervention includes referral to
22 and delivery of information and services by schools
23 and agencies, including community, consumer, and
24 parent-based agencies and organizations and other
25 programs mandated by part C of the Individuals

with Disabilities Education Act, which offer programs specifically designed to meet the unique language and communication needs of deaf and hard of hearing newborns, infants, toddlers, and children. Programs and systems under this paragraph shall establish and foster family-to-family support mechanisms that are critical in the first months after a child is identified with hearing loss.”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) To develop efficient models to ensure that newborns and infants who are identified with a hearing loss through screening receive follow-up by a qualified health care provider. These models shall be evaluated for their effectiveness, and State agencies shall be encouraged to adopt models that effectively increase the rate of occurrence of such follow-up.

“(4) To ensure an adequate supply of qualified personnel to meet the screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and early intervention needs of children.”;

(3) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking “hearing loss screening, evaluation, and intervention programs” and inserting “hearing loss screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention programs”;

(4) in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c), by striking the term “hearing screening, evaluation

and intervention programs” each place such term appears and inserting “hearing screening, evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention programs”;

(5) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by striking “ensuring that families of the child” and all that follows and inserting “ensuring that families of the child are provided comprehensive, consumer-oriented information about the full range of family support, training, information services, and language and communication options and are given the opportunity to consider and obtain the full range of such appropriate services, educational and program placements, and other options for their child from highly qualified providers.”; and

(B) in paragraph (6), by striking “, after rescreening,”; and

(6) in subsection (f)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “fiscal year 2002” and inserting “fiscal years 2010 through 2015”;

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “fiscal year 2002” and inserting “fiscal years 2010 through 2015”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “fiscal
 2 year 2002” and inserting “fiscal years 2010
 3 through 2015”.

4 **SEC. 3. POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.**

5 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act
 6 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by inserting after
 7 section 399M the following:

8 **“SEC. 399M-1. POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM IN**
 9 **THE AREA OF EARLY HEARING DETECTION**
 10 **AND INTERVENTION.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
 12 postdoctoral fellowship program to foster research and de-
 13 velopment in the area of early hearing detection and inter-
 14 vention.

15 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 16 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
 17 necessary to carry out this section.”.

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