

In the Senate of the United States,

November 21, 2024.

Resolved, That the bill from the House of Representatives (H.R. 7213) entitled “An Act to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance and reauthorize activities and programs relating to autism spectrum disorder, and for other purposes.”, do pass with the following

AMENDMENT:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 ***SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.***

2 *This Act may be cited as the “Autism Collaboration,*
3 *Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of*
4 *2024” or the “Autism CARES Act of 2024”.*

5 ***SEC. 2. NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES.***

6 *(a) EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES.—Section 409C(a)(1)*
7 *of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g(a)(1)) is*
8 *amended—*

1 (1) by striking “) shall, subject to the avail-
 2 ability” and inserting the following: “), in consulta-
 3 tion with relevant Federal departments and agencies,
 4 as appropriate, shall—

5 “(A) subject to the availability”;

6 (2) by striking “basic and clinical research in
 7 fields including pathology” and inserting the fol-
 8 lowing: “basic and clinical research—

9 “(i) in fields, such as pathology”;

10 (3) by striking “toxicology, and interventions”
 11 and inserting the following: “toxicology, psychiatry,
 12 psychology, developmental behavioral pediatrics,
 13 audiology, and gerontology; and

14 “(ii) on interventions”;

15 (4) by striking “disorder. Such research shall in-
 16 vestigate” and inserting the following: “disorder; and

17 “(B) ensure that research referred to in sub-
 18 paragraph (A)—

19 “(i) investigates”;

20 (5) by striking “prevention, services across the
 21 lifespan, supports, intervention, and treatment of au-
 22 tism spectrum disorder” and inserting “prevention,
 23 services and supports across the lifespan, intervention,
 24 and treatment of autism spectrum disorder and co-oc-
 25 curring conditions”; and

1 (6) by striking “treatments.” and inserting the
2 following: “treatments;

3 “(ii) examines supports for caregivers;
4 and

5 “(iii) reflects the entire population of
6 individuals with autism spectrum disorder,
7 including those individuals with co-occur-
8 ring conditions and the full range of needs
9 for supports and services, including such
10 supports and services to ensure the safety,
11 and promote the well-being, of such individ-
12 uals.”.

13 (b) *CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE*.—Section 409C(b) of
14 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g(b)) is
15 amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (2)—

17 (A) by striking “including the fields of” and
18 inserting “in fields such as”; and

19 (B) by striking “behavioral psychology, and
20 clinical psychology” and inserting “behavioral
21 psychology, clinical psychology, and geron-
22 tology”;

23 (2) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “five” and
24 inserting “seven”; and

1 (3) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “period of
2 not to exceed” and inserting “period not to exceed”.

3 (c) *PUBLIC INPUT*.—Section 409C(d) of the Public
4 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g(d)) is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 “(d) *PUBLIC INPUT*.—

7 “(1) *IN GENERAL*.—The Director shall under
8 subsection (a)(1) provide for means through which the
9 public can obtain information on the existing and
10 planned programs and activities of the National In-
11 stitutes of Health with respect to autism spectrum
12 disorder and through which the Director can receive
13 comments from the public regarding such programs
14 and activities.

15 “(2) *GUIDANCE*.—The Director may provide
16 guidance to centers under subsection (b)(1) on strate-
17 gies, activities, and opportunities to promote engage-
18 ment with, and solicit input from, individuals with
19 autism spectrum disorder and their family members,
20 guardians, advocates or authorized representatives,
21 providers, or other appropriate individuals to inform
22 the activities of the center. Such strategies, activities,
23 and opportunities should consider including, as ap-
24 propriate, individuals, family members, and care-
25 givers of individuals with autism spectrum disorder

1 *who represent the entire population of individuals*
 2 *with autism spectrum disorder, including those indi-*
 3 *viduals with co-occurring conditions and the full*
 4 *range of needs for supports and services, including*
 5 *such supports and services to ensure the safety, and*
 6 *promote the well-being, of such individuals, to inform*
 7 *the activities of the center.”.*

8 *(d) BUDGET ESTIMATE.—Section 409C of the Public*
 9 *Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g) is amended by adding*
 10 *at the end the following:*

11 *“(e) BUDGET ESTIMATE.—For each of fiscal years*
 12 *2026 through 2029, the Director shall prepare and submit,*
 13 *directly to the President for review and transmittal to Con-*
 14 *gress, an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the*
 15 *National Institutes of Health pursuant to the strategic plan*
 16 *developed under section 399CC(b)(5) and updated under*
 17 *section 399CC(b)(6)(B), after reasonable opportunity for*
 18 *comment (but without change) by the Secretary and the*
 19 *Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee established*
 20 *under section 399CC.”.*

21 **SEC. 3. PROGRAMS RELATING TO AUTISM.**

22 *(a) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE*
 23 *AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 399AA of the Public*
 24 *Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i) is amended—*

1 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “an Indian
2 tribe, or a tribal organization” and inserting “an In-
3 dian Tribe, or a Tribal organization”;

4 (2) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “across the
5 lifespan” before the period at the end;

6 (3) in subsection (d)(1)—

7 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
8 “TRIBE; TRIBAL” and inserting “TRIBE; TRIB-
9 AL”;

10 (B) by striking “tribe” and inserting
11 “Tribe”; and

12 (C) by striking “tribal” and inserting
13 “Tribal”; and

14 (4) in subsection (e), by striking “December 20,
15 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2029”.

16 (b) *AUTISM EDUCATION, EARLY DETECTION, AND*
17 *INTERVENTION.*—Section 399BB of the Public Health Serv-
18 *ice Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–1) is amended—*

19 (1) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “culturally
20 competent information” and inserting “culturally
21 and linguistically appropriate information”;

22 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

23 (A) by striking “promote research” and in-
24 serting “promote research, which may include re-

1 *search that takes a community-based approach,”;*
 2 *and*

3 *(B) by striking “screening tools” each place*
 4 *it appears and inserting “screening and diag-*
 5 *nostic tools”;*

6 *(3) in subsection (b)(3), by striking “at higher*
 7 *risk” and inserting “at increased likelihood”;*

8 *(4) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, which*
 9 *may give consideration to the perspectives of parents*
 10 *and guardians” before the semicolon at the end;*

11 *(5) in subsection (b)(7), by striking “at higher*
 12 *risk” and inserting “at increased likelihood”;*

13 *(6) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “culturally*
 14 *competent information” and inserting “culturally*
 15 *and linguistically appropriate information”;*

16 *(7) in subsection (c)(2)(A)(ii), by striking “cul-*
 17 *turally competent information” and inserting “cul-*
 18 *turally and linguistically appropriate information”;*

19 *(8) by amending paragraph (1) of subsection (e)*
 20 *to read as follows:*

21 *(9) in subsection (e)(1)—*

22 *(A) in the matter preceding subparagraph*
 23 *(A), by inserting “, and strengthen the capacity*
 24 *of,” after “expand”; and*

25 *(B) in subparagraph (A)—*

1 (i) by striking “expand existing or de-
 2 velop new” and inserting “expand and
 3 strengthen the capacity of existing, or, in
 4 States that do not have such a program, de-
 5 velop new,”; and

6 (ii) by striking “Act) in States that do
 7 not have such a program” and inserting
 8 “Act)”;

9 (C) in subparagraph (B)(v), by inserting
 10 “or other providers, as applicable” before the
 11 semicolon at the end; and

12 (D) by amending subparagraph (C) to read
 13 as follows:

14 “(C) program sites—

15 “(i) provide culturally and linguis-
 16 tically appropriate services;

17 “(ii) take a multidisciplinary ap-
 18 proach and have experience working with
 19 underserved populations; and

20 “(iii) identify opportunities to partner
 21 with community-based organizations to ex-
 22 pand the capacity of communities to serve
 23 individuals with autism spectrum disorder
 24 or other developmental disabilities.”;

1 (10) in subsection (e)(2), by adding at the end
2 the following new subparagraph:

3 “(C) *REPORT*.—Not later than 2 years after
4 the date of the enactment of the Autism CARES
5 Act of 2024, the Secretary shall submit to the
6 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
7 House of Representatives and the Committee on
8 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the
9 Senate a report that examines the need for, and
10 feasibility of, expanding the developmental-be-
11 havioral pediatrician training programs de-
12 scribed in subparagraph (A).”;

13 (11) by amending subsection (f) to read as fol-
14 lows:

15 “(f) *INTERVENTION*.—The Secretary shall promote re-
16 search through grants or contracts, which may include
17 grants or contracts to research centers or networks, to—

18 “(1) develop and evaluate evidence-based prac-
19 tices and interventions to improve outcomes for indi-
20 viduals with autism spectrum disorder or other devel-
21 opmental disabilities by addressing physical and be-
22 havioral health and communication needs of such in-
23 dividuals across the lifespan;

24 “(2) develop guidelines for such evidence-based
25 practices and interventions; and

1 “(3) disseminate information related to such evi-
 2 dence-based practices and interventions and guide-
 3 lines.”; and

4 (12) in subsection (g), by striking “December 20,
 5 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2029”.

6 (c) *INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COM-*
 7 *MITTEE*.—Section 399CC of the Public Health Service Act
 8 (42 U.S.C. 280i–2) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (b)—

10 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
 11 by inserting “, on a regular basis” after “shall”;

12 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “develop
 13 a summary” and inserting “summarize”; and

14 (C) by striking paragraphs (5) and (6) and
 15 inserting the following:

16 “(5) develop a strategic plan for the conduct of,
 17 and support for, autism spectrum disorder research,
 18 as described in section 409C(a)(1), which shall in-
 19 clude—

20 “(A) proposed budgetary requirements; and

21 “(B) recommendations to ensure that au-
 22 tism spectrum disorder research, and services
 23 and support activities to the extent practicable,
 24 of the Department of Health and Human Serv-

1 ices and of other Federal departments and agen-
 2 cies are not unnecessarily duplicative; and

3 “(6) submit to the Congress and the President—

4 “(A) an annual update on the summary of
 5 advances described in paragraph (2); and

6 “(B) a biennial update on the strategic
 7 plan described in paragraph (5), including
 8 progress made in achieving the goals outlined in
 9 such strategic plan and any specific measures
 10 taken pursuant to such strategic plan.”; and

11 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “December 20,
 12 2024” and inserting “September 30, 2029”.

13 (d) *REPORTS TO CONGRESS*.—Section 399DD of the
 14 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–3) is amended—

15 (1) by striking “2019” each place it appears and
 16 inserting “2024”; and

17 (2) in subsection (a), by amending paragraph
 18 (1) to read as follows:

19 “(1) *IN GENERAL*.—Not later than 4 years after
 20 September 30, 2024, the Secretary, in consultation
 21 with other relevant Federal departments and agencies,
 22 shall prepare and submit to the Committee on Health,
 23 Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the
 24 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of
 25 Representatives, and make publicly available, includ-

1 *ing through posting on the website of the Department*
 2 *of Health and Human Services, a progress report on*
 3 *activities related to autism spectrum disorder and*
 4 *other developmental disabilities. Such report shall in-*
 5 *clude activities and research related to the entire pop-*
 6 *ulation of individuals with autism spectrum disorder,*
 7 *including those individuals with co-occurring condi-*
 8 *tions and the full range of needs for supports and*
 9 *services, including such supports and services to en-*
 10 *sure the safety, and promote the well-being, of such*
 11 *individuals.”;*

12 *(3) in subsection (b)—*

13 *(A) in the heading of subsection (b), by*
 14 *striking “HEALTH AND WELL-BEING” and in-*
 15 *serting “MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS”;*

16 *(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “health*
 17 *and well-being” and inserting “mental health*
 18 *needs”; and*

19 *(C) by amending paragraph (2) to read as*
 20 *follows:*

21 *“(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under*
 22 *paragraph (1) shall contain—*

23 *“(A) an overview of policies and programs*
 24 *relevant to the mental health of individuals with*
 25 *autism spectrum disorder across their lifespan,*

1 *including an identification of existing Federal*
 2 *laws, regulations, policies, research, and pro-*
 3 *grams; and*

4 “(B) *recommendations to improve mental*
 5 *health outcomes and address related disparities*
 6 *in mental health care for individuals with au-*
 7 *tism spectrum disorder, including prevention,*
 8 *care coordination, and community-based serv-*
 9 *ices.”;*

10 *(4) by adding at the end the following:*

11 “(c) *UPDATE ON YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUTH*
 12 *TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD.—Not later than 2 years*
 13 *after the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act of*
 14 *2024, the Secretary, in coordination with other relevant*
 15 *Federal departments and agencies, as appropriate, shall*
 16 *prepare and submit to the Committee on Energy and Com-*
 17 *merce of the House of Representatives and the Committee*
 18 *on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate*
 19 *an update to the report required pursuant to subsection (b)*
 20 *of this section, as added by section 6 of the Autism Cares*
 21 *Act of 2014 (Public Law 113–157), and in effect before the*
 22 *date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act of 2019 (Pub-*
 23 *lic Law 116–60), concerning young adults with autism*
 24 *spectrum disorder and the challenges related to the transi-*

1 *tion from existing school-based services to those services*
 2 *available during adulthood.”.*

3 (e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section*
 4 *399EE of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–*
 5 *4) is amended—*

6 (1) *in subsection (a), by striking “\$23,100,000*
 7 *for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-*
 8 *serting “\$28,100,000 for each of fiscal years 2025*
 9 *through 2029”;*

10 (2) *in subsection (b), by striking “\$50,599,000*
 11 *for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-*
 12 *serting “\$56,344,000 for each of fiscal years 2025*
 13 *through 2029”; and*

14 (3) *in subsection (c), by striking “there are au-*
 15 *thorized to be appropriated \$296,000,000 for each of*
 16 *fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and inserting “there*
 17 *is authorized to be appropriated \$306,000,000 for*
 18 *each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.*

19 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO**
 20 **COMMUNICATION TOOLS.**

21 (a) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and*
 22 *Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-*
 23 *retary”)* may, at the request of a State, Indian Tribe, Trib-
 24 *al organization, locality, or territory, provide training and*
 25 *technical assistance to such jurisdiction on the manner in*

1 *which Federal funding administered by the Secretary may*
2 *be used to provide individuals with autism spectrum dis-*
3 *order and other developmental disabilities with access to*
4 *evidence-based services, tools, and technologies that support*
5 *communication needs.*

6 (b) *ANNUAL REPORT.*—*The Secretary shall annually*
7 *prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Edu-*
8 *cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Com-*
9 *mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Represent-*
10 *atives a report summarizing any technical assistance pro-*
11 *vided by the Secretary in the preceding fiscal year under*
12 *subsection (a) and any advancements in the development*
13 *or evaluation of such evidence-based services, tools, and*
14 *technologies.*

Attest:

Secretary.

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H.R. 7213

AMENDMENT