

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4147

To continue to fund the IMPROVE initiative through the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 17, 2024

Ms. BUTLER (for herself and Mrs. BRITT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To continue to fund the IMPROVE initiative through the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, 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 “NIH Implementing
5 a Maternal health and PRenancy Outcomes Vision for
6 Everyone” or the “NIH IMPROVE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.**

2 Subpart 7 of part C of title IV of the Public Health
3 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding
4 at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 452H. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Institute
7 shall continue to carry out the IMPROVE initiative (re-
8 ferred to in this section as the ‘Initiative’) through the
9 Institute for the following:

10 “(1) Advancing research to—

11 “(A) reduce preventable causes of maternal
12 mortality and severe maternal morbidity;

13 “(B) reduce racial, ethnic, geographic, and
14 socioeconomic disparities in maternal health
15 outcomes; and

16 “(C) improve health for pregnant and
17 postpartum individuals before, during, and after
18 pregnancy.

19 “(2) Using an integrated approach to under-
20 stand the biological, behavioral, sociocultural, and
21 structural factors that affect maternal mortality and
22 severe maternal morbidity by building an evidence
23 base for improved care and outcomes in specific re-
24 gions of the United States.

1 “(3) Targeting health disparities associated
2 with maternal mortality and severe maternal mor-
3 bidity by—

4 “(A) implementing and evaluating commu-
5 nity-based interventions for disproportionately
6 affected individuals; and

7 “(B) identifying risk factors and the un-
8 derlying biological mechanisms associated with
9 leading causes of maternal mortality and severe
10 maternal morbidity in the United States, in-
11 cluding cardiovascular disease, infection and
12 immunity, vitamin and nutrient deficiencies,
13 and mental and behavioral health.

14 “(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director of the Insti-
15 tute may award grants or enter into contracts, cooperative
16 agreements, or other transactions to carry out subsection
17 (a), including with researchers from racial and ethnic mi-
18 nority groups (as defined in section 1707(g)(1)).

19 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$53,400,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.”.

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