

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4493

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to declare a public health emergency in connection with health risks associated with climate change, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2025

Ms. DEXTER (for herself, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. RANDALL, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SIMON, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. BELL, and Mr. THANEDAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to declare a public health emergency in connection with health risks associated with climate change, 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 “Climate Health Emer-
5 gency Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) In the past decade, the Secretary of Health
2 and Human Services has declared or renewed a pub-
3 lic health emergency 120 times. Of those declara-
4 tions and renewals—

5 (A) 66 were related to extreme weather
6 events;

7 (B) 14 were related to COVID–19;

8 (C) 2 were related to earthquakes;

9 (D) 2 were related to Mpox;

10 (E) 32 were related to the opioid crisis;

11 and

12 (F) 4 were related to Zika.

13 (2) A preponderance of evidence shows that cli-
14 mate change is driving or, at a minimum, exacer-
15 bating extreme weather events and the transmission
16 of infectious diseases. Therefore, climate change can
17 be linked to more than half of all public health
18 emergency declarations over the past decade.

19 (3) For this reason, entities (including the
20 World Health Organization) have identified climate
21 change as the most significant health threat of the
22 21st century. Yet the public health infrastructure of
23 the United States remains woefully unprepared to
24 meet the increased demand that climate-related pub-
25 lic health crises continue to drive.

1 (4) The United States bears a moral and stra-
2 tegic responsibility to confront climate-related public
3 health crises with the urgency such crises demand.
4 To protect communities in the United States, and
5 the most vulnerable individuals within such commu-
6 nities, the Nation must mobilize Federal resources,
7 enable data sharing, exercise emergency authorities,
8 and coordinate across agencies to build a public
9 health system that is resilient to the intensifying
10 threat of climate change.

11 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.**

12 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
13 declare a public health emergency under section 319 of
14 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) in connec-
15 tion with health risks associated with climate change.

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