

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5861

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to seek an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on establishing a system for storing last wish documents, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 28, 2025

Mr. SUOZZI (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) 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 seek an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on establishing a system for storing last wish documents, 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 “Legacy Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY ON ESTABLISHING SYSTEM FOR STORING**
2 **AND RETRIEVING LAST WISH DOCUMENTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to enter
4 into an agreement with the National Academies under
5 which the National Academies conduct a study on estab-
6 lishing and maintaining a national, confidential, and se-
7 cure system for storing and retrieving by an authorized
8 agent a last wish document of an individual, at no cost
9 to such individual.

10 (b) SUBMISSION OF STATUS AND RESULTS.—The
11 agreement entered into under subsection (a) shall require
12 the National Academies to submit to the Secretary and
13 Congress—

14 (1) not later than 2 years after the date of en-
15 actment of this Act, the status of the study con-
16 ducted under such agreement; and

17 (2) not later than 4 years after the date of en-
18 actment of this Act, the results of the study con-
19 ducted under such agreement.

20 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

21 (1) LAST WISH DOCUMENT.—The term “last
22 wish document” includes—

- 23 (A) an advance directive;
- 24 (B) an organ donor registration;
- 25 (C) a healthcare or medical proxy;
- 26 (D) a power of attorney; or

1 (E) a living will.

2 (2) NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—The term “Na-
3 tional Academies” means the National Academies of
4 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine.

5 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
6 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

