

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 494

AN ACT

To establish a national plan to coordinate research on
epilepsy, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “National Plan for Epi-
3 lepsy Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REVIEW TO IMPROVE EPILEPSY PROGRAMS, RE-**
5 **SEARCH, PREVENTION, AND CARE.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
7 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
8 retary”) shall review and, as necessary and appropriate,
9 provide recommendations to Congress regarding, and up-
10 date existing Federal programs, activities, and strategic
11 plans related to, epilepsy research, prevention, early iden-
12 tification, diagnosis, and treatment for purposes of identi-
13 fying and addressing knowledge gaps and improving
14 health outcomes related to epilepsy.

15 (b) CONTENT.—The review under subsection (a) shall
16 include—

17 (1) a review of findings from evidence-based re-
18 search on epilepsy, the status of ongoing, federally-
19 funded research on epilepsy, knowledge gaps related
20 to epilepsy, and disparities in populations with epi-
21 lepsy;

22 (2) a review of Federal programs related to epi-
23 lepsy research, prevention, early identification, diag-
24 nosis, and treatment, which shall include consider-
25 ation of—

1 (A) gaps in, and opportunities for, coordi-
 2 nation among such programs;

3 (B) opportunities to inform global efforts
 4 to prevent, diagnose, treat, and cure epilepsy,
 5 as appropriate;

6 (C) near- and long-term goals of such pro-
 7 grams to improve research, prevention, early
 8 identification, diagnosis, and treatment of epi-
 9 lepsy; and

10 (D) the level of Federal investment in pre-
 11 venting, diagnosing, treating, and curing epi-
 12 lepsy;

13 (3) consideration of opportunities to—

14 (A) improve collaboration between Federal
 15 agencies and relevant stakeholders to address
 16 gaps in programs, research, and services;

17 (B) eliminate knowledge gaps in research
 18 on epilepsy, including a review of the impact of
 19 epilepsy on the health and well-being of individ-
 20 uals with epilepsy and their caregivers;

21 (C) improve early diagnosis and coordina-
 22 tion of the care and treatment of individuals
 23 with epilepsy;

1 (D) better prevent sudden unexpected
2 death in epilepsy and other epilepsy-related
3 mortalities;

4 (E) improve surveillance of epilepsy; and

5 (F) support the development of new treat-
6 ments, strategies, and other approaches to pre-
7 vent, diagnose, treat, and cure epilepsy or to
8 enhance functioning and improve quality of life
9 for individuals with epilepsy and their care-
10 givers; and

11 (4) a review of current public health strategies,
12 and consideration of additional evidence-based strat-
13 egies, related to epilepsy.

14 (c) EXTERNAL INPUT.—To inform the review under
15 subsection (a), the Secretary shall regularly convene and
16 solicit input from other Federal agencies, as appropriate,
17 and relevant stakeholders, including patient advocates and
18 non-Federal subject matter experts.

19 (d) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
20 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit
21 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
22 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and
23 Commerce of the House of Representatives a report on
24 the findings of the review conducted under subsection (a),
25 including—

1 (1) a description of steps the Secretary took to
2 solicit stakeholder input pursuant to subsection (c)
3 and a summary of feedback received from, and
4 needs identified by, such stakeholders;

5 (2) recommendations to improve coordination
6 and support of Federal programs in order to better
7 support people with epilepsy, epilepsy research, and
8 data collection, and proposals for implementation of
9 such recommendations, as appropriate; and

10 (3) any changes to Federal programs, activities,
11 or strategic plans recommended by the Secretary
12 based on the review, and any statutory or other bar-
13 riers that impede implementation of such changes.

Passed the Senate August 4, 2026.

Attest:

Secretary.

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