

MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH STILLBIRTH  
PREVENTION ACT OF 2024

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MAY 7, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the  
Union and ordered to be printed

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Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, from the Committee on Energy and  
Commerce, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 4581]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 4581) to amend title V of the Social Security Act to support stillbirth prevention and research, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

This Act may be cited as the “Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act of 2024”.

**SEC. 2. CLARIFICATION SUPPORTING PERMISSIBLE USE OF FUNDS FOR STILLBIRTH PREVENTION ACTIVITIES.**

Section 501(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 701(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting “to reduce the incidence of stillbirth,” after “among children,”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by inserting after “follow-up services” the following: “, and for evidence-based programs and activities and outcome research to reduce the incidence of stillbirth (including tracking and awareness of fetal movements, improvement of birth timing for pregnancies with risk factors, initiatives that encourage safe sleeping positions during pregnancy, screening and surveillance for fetal growth restriction, efforts to achieve smoking cessation during pregnancy, community-based programs that provide home visits or other types of support, and any other research or evidence-based programming to prevent stillbirths)”.

**PURPOSE AND SUMMARY**

H.R. 4581 clarifies that evidence-based activities and research focused on reducing the incidence of stillbirth are permissible uses of the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant funding in Title V.

**BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION**

Stillbirth affects about 1 in 175 births, and each year about 21,000 babies are stillborn in the United States.<sup>1</sup> Worldwide, there are more than 2.6 million stillbirths every year.<sup>2</sup> While there have been incredible advances and improvements in medical technology over the last 30 years, including in prenatal care, the rate of early stillbirth has remained about the same.<sup>3</sup> States are authorized to use their Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant funding for stillbirth education and related activities, but due to a lack of clear federal guidance, states have refrained from utilizing this funding stream for these purposes. This legislation clarifies that states can use Title V funding for evidence-based programs, activities, and outcome research to help prevent and reduce the incidence of stillbirths.

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

On February 14, 2024, the Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 4581. The title of the hearing was “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Andy Shih, PhD, Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks;
- Corey Feist, JD, MBA, Co-Founder and CEO, Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes’ Foundation;
- Joanne Pike, DrPH, President and CEO, Alzheimer’s Association;
- Gordon Tomaselli, MD, Former President, American Heart Association; Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, Emeritus and Professor of Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Adjunct Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine;

<sup>1</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “What is Stillbirth?”, 2022. <https://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/stillbirth/facts.html>.

<sup>2</sup>Star Legacy Foundation, “About Stillbirth”, 2024. <https://starlegacyfoundation.org/about-stillbirth/>.

<sup>3</sup>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, “What is Stillbirth?”, 2024.

- Michelle Whitten, President, CEO, and Co-Founder, Global Down Syndrome Foundation;
- Randy Stroyk, President, American Ambulance Association; and
- Christina Annunziata, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President of Extramural Discovery Science, American Cancer Society.

On March 12, 2024, the Subcommittee on Health met in open markup session and forwarded H.R. 4581, as amended, to the full Committee by a record vote of 25 yeas and 0 nays.

On March 20, 2024, the full Committee on Energy and Commerce met in open markup session and ordered H.R. 4581, as amended, favorably reported to the House by a record vote of 44 yeas and 0 nays.

#### COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. The following reflects the record votes taken during the Committee consideration:

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
118TH CONGRESS  
ROLL CALL VOTE # 8**

**BILL:** H.R. 4581, Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act of 2024

**AMENDMENT:** A motion by Chair Rodgers to order H.R. 4581 favorably reported to the House, as amended (Final Passage).

**DISPOSITION:** **AGREED TO**, by a roll call vote of 44 yeas to 0 nays.

REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT	REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
Rep. Rodgers	X			Rep. Pallone	X		
Rep. Burgess	X			Rep. Eshoo	X		
Rep. Latta	X			Rep. DeGette	x		
Rep. Guthrie	X			Rep. Schakowsky	X		
Rep. Griffith	X			Rep. Matsui	X		
Rep. Bilirakis	X			Rep. Castor	X		
Rep. Bucshon	X			Rep. Sarbanes	X		
Rep. Hudson				Rep. Tonko	X		
Rep. Walberg	X			Rep. Clarke	X		
Rep. Carter	X			Rep. Cárdenas	X		
Rep. Duncan	X			Rep. Ruíz	X		
Rep. Palmer	X			Rep. Peters	X		
Rep. Dunn	X			Rep. Dingell	X		
Rep. Curtis				Rep. Veasey	X		
Rep. Lesko	X			Rep. Kuster			
Rep. Pence	X			Rep. Kelly			
Rep. Crenshaw				Rep. Barragán	X		
Rep. Joyce	X			Rep. Blunt Rochester			
Rep. Armstrong	X			Rep. Soto	X		
Rep. Weber				Rep. Craig	X		
Rep. Allen	X			Rep. Schrier	X		
Rep. Balderson	X			Rep. Trahan	X		
Rep. Fulcher	X			Rep. Fletcher	X		
Rep. Pfluger	X						
Rep. Harshbarger	X						
Rep. Miller-Meeks	X						
Rep. Cammack	X						
Rep. Obernolte	X						

03/20/2024

#### OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee held a hearing and made findings that are reflected in this report.

#### NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 4581 would result in no new or increased budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

#### CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII, at the time this report was filed, the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not available.

#### FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

#### STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to reduce the rate of stillbirths by supporting research into evidence-based preventative measures.

#### DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 4581 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

#### RELATED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following related hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 4581:

- On February 14, 2024, the Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 4581. The title of the hearing was “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:
  - Andy Shih, PhD, Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks;
  - Corey Feist, JD, MBA, Co-Founder and CEO, Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes’ Foundation;
  - Joanne Pike, DrPH, President and CEO, Alzheimer’s Association;
  - Gordon Tomaselli, MD, Former President, American Heart Association; Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, Emeritus and Professor of Medicine, Albert Einstein Col-

lege of Medicine; Adjunct Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine;

- Michelle Whitten, President, CEO, and Co-Founder, Global Down Syndrome Foundation;
- Randy Strozyk, President, American Ambulance Association; and
- Christina Annunziata, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President of Extramural Discovery Science, American Cancer Society.

#### COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. At the time this report was filed, the estimate was not available.

#### EARMARK, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 4581 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

#### ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

#### APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

#### SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

##### *Section 1. Short title*

Section 1 provides that the Act may be cited as the “Maternal and Child Health Stillbirth Prevention Act of 2024”.

##### *Section 2. Clarification supporting permissible use of funds for stillbirth prevention activities*

Section 2 amends the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant by expanding the scope and purpose to include stillbirth research and prevention.

#### CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (new matter is printed in italics and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

**SOCIAL SECURITY ACT**

TITLE V—MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH SERVICES  
BLOCK GRANT

\* \* \* \* \*

AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

SEC. 501. (a) To improve the health of all mothers and children consistent with the applicable health status goals and national health objectives established by the Secretary under the Public Health Service Act for the year 2000, there are authorized to be appropriated \$850,000,000 for fiscal year 2001 and each fiscal year thereafter—

(1) for the purpose of enabling each State—

(A) to provide and to assure mothers and children (in particular those with low income or with limited availability of health services) access to quality maternal and child health services;

(B) to reduce infant mortality and the incidence of preventable diseases and handicapping conditions among children, *to reduce the incidence of stillbirth*, to reduce the need for inpatient and long-term care services, to increase the number of children (especially preschool children) appropriately immunized against disease and the number of low income children receiving health assessments and follow-up diagnostic and treatment services, and otherwise to promote the health of mothers and infants by providing prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care for low income, at-risk pregnant women, and to promote the health of children by providing preventive and primary care services for low income children;

(C) to provide rehabilitation services for blind and disabled individuals under the age of 16 receiving benefits under title XVI, to the extent medical assistance for such services is not provided under title XIX; and

(D) to provide and to promote family-centered, community-based, coordinated care (including care coordination services, as defined in subsection (b)(3)) for children with special health care needs and to facilitate the development of community-based systems of services for such children and their families;

(2) for the purpose of enabling the Secretary (through grants, contracts, or otherwise) to provide for special projects of regional and national significance, research, and training with respect to maternal and child health and children with special health care needs (including early intervention training and services development), for genetic disease testing, counseling, and information development and dissemination programs, for grants (including funding for comprehensive hemophilia diagnostic treatment centers) relating to hemophilia without regard to age, and for the screening of newborns for sickle cell anemia, and other genetic disorders and follow-up services, *and for evidence-based programs and activities and outcome research to reduce the incidence of stillbirth (including tracking and aware-*

*ness of fetal movements, improvement of birth timing for pregnancies with risk factors, initiatives that encourage safe sleeping positions during pregnancy, screening and surveillance for fetal growth restriction, efforts to achieve smoking cessation during pregnancy, community-based programs that provide home visits or other types of support, and any other research or evidence-based programming to prevent stillbirths); and*

(3) subject to section 502(b) for the purpose of enabling the Secretary (through grants, contracts, or otherwise) to provide for developing and expanding the following—

(A) maternal and infant health home visiting programs in which case management services as defined in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(4), health education services, and related social support services are provided in the home to pregnant women or families with an infant up to the age one by an appropriate health professional or by a qualified nonprofessional acting under the supervision of a health care professional,

(B) projects designed to increase the participation of obstetricians and pediatricians under the program under this title and under state plans approved under title XIX,

(C) integrated maternal and child health service delivery systems (of the type described in section 1136 and using, once developed, the model application form developed under section 6506(a) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1989),

(D) maternal and child health centers which (i) provide prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care for pregnant women and preventive and primary care services for infants up to age one, and (ii) operate under the direction of a not-for-profit hospital,

(E) maternal and child health projects to serve rural populations, and

(F) outpatient and community based services programs (including day care services) for children with special health care needs whose medical services are provided primarily through inpatient institutional care.

Funds appropriated under this section may only be used in a manner consistent with the Assisted Suicide Funding Restriction Act of 1997.

(b) For purposes of this title:

(1) The term “consolidated health programs” means the programs administered under the provisions of—

(A) this title (relating to maternal and child health and services for children with special health care needs),

(B) section 1615(c) of this Act (relating to supplemental security income for disabled children),

(C) sections 316 (relating to lead-based paint poisoning prevention programs), 1101 (relating to genetic disease programs), 1121 (relating to sudden infant death syndrome programs) and 1131 (relating to hemophilia treatment centers) of the Public Health Service Act, and

(D) title VI of the Health Services and Centers Amendments of 1978 (Public Law 95–626; relating to adolescent pregnancy grants),



as such provisions were in effect before the date of the enactment of the Maternal and Child Health Services Block Grant Act.

(2) The term “low income” means, with respect to an individual or family, such an individual or family with an income determined to be below the income official poverty line defined by the Office of Management and Budget and revised annually in accordance with section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981.

(3) The term “care coordination services” means services to promote the effective and efficient organization and utilization of resources to assure access to necessary comprehensive services for children with special health care needs and their families.

(4) The term “case management services” means—

(A) with respect to pregnant women, services to assure access to quality prenatal, delivery, and postpartum care; and

(B) with respect to infants up to age one, services to assure access to quality preventive and primary care services.

(c)(1)(A) For the purpose of enabling the Secretary (through grants, contracts, or otherwise) to provide for special projects of regional and national significance for the development and support of family-to-family health information centers described in paragraph (2), there is appropriated to the Secretary, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated—

(i) \$3,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;

(ii) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2008;

(iii) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013;

(iv) \$2,500,000 for the portion of fiscal year 2014 before April 1, 2014;

(v) \$2,500,000 for the portion of fiscal year 2014 on or after April 1, 2014;

(vi) \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2017;

(vii) \$6,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2024;

and

(viii) \$1,500,000 for the portion of the fiscal year 2025 before January 1, 2025.

(B) Funds appropriated or authorized to be appropriated under subparagraph (A) shall—

(i) be in addition to amounts appropriated under subsection (a) and retained under section 502(a)(1) for the purpose of carrying out activities described in subsection (a)(2); and

(ii) remain available until expended.

(2) The family-to-family health information centers described in this paragraph are centers that—

(A) assist families of children with disabilities or special health care needs to make informed choices about health care in order to promote good treatment decisions, cost-effectiveness, and improved health outcomes for such children;

(B) provide information regarding the health care needs of, and resources available for, such children;

(C) identify successful health delivery models for such children;

(D) develop with representatives of health care providers, managed care organizations, health care purchasers, and appropriate State agencies, a model for collaboration between families of such children and health professionals;

(E) provide training and guidance regarding caring for such children;

(F) conduct outreach activities to the families of such children, health professionals, schools, and other appropriate entities and individuals; and

(G) are staffed—

(i) by such families who have expertise in Federal and State public and private health care systems; and

(ii) by health professionals.

(3) The Secretary shall develop family-to-family health information centers described in paragraph (2) in accordance with the following:

(A) With respect to fiscal year 2007, such centers shall be developed in not less than 25 States.

(B) With respect to fiscal year 2008, such centers shall be developed in not less than 40 States.

(C) With respect to fiscal year 2009 and each fiscal year thereafter, such centers shall be developed in all States, and with respect to fiscal year 2018 and each fiscal year thereafter, such centers shall also be developed in all territories and at least one such center shall be developed for Indian tribes.

(4) The provisions of this title that are applicable to the funds made available to the Secretary under section 502(a)(1) apply in the same manner to funds made available to the Secretary under paragraph (1)(A).

(5) For purposes of this subsection—

(A) the term “Indian tribe” has the meaning given such term in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603);

(B) the term “State” means each of the 50 States and the District of Columbia; and

(C) the term “territory” means Puerto Rico, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and the Northern Mariana Islands.

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