

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 875

To provide for programs to develop and implement integrated cockroach management programs in urban communities that are effective in reducing health risks to inner city residents, especially children, suffering from asthma and asthma-related illnesses.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 25, 1999

Mr. RUSH (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FORD, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mrs. CHRISTIAN-CHRISTENSEN, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. FROST, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. HILLIARD, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To provide for programs to develop and implement integrated cockroach management programs in urban communities that are effective in reducing health risks to inner city residents, especially children, suffering from asthma and asthma-related illnesses.

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 “Urban Asthma Reduc-
3 tion Act of 1999”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds that—

6 (1) certain pests of public health importance
7 occur and proliferate at higher rates in urban envi-
8 ronments;

9 (2) these pests may spread infectious disease
10 and contribute to the worsening of chronic res-
11 piratory illnesses, including asthma;

12 (3) pollution, smoking, pesticides, and other en-
13 vironmental factors, including exposure to cock-
14 roaches, may contribute to and worsen the condition
15 of individuals, especially children, suffering from
16 asthma;

17 (4) the widespread use of pesticides poses
18 health risks to children, as documented by the Na-
19 tional Research Council;

20 (5) the number of Americans suffering from
21 Asthma has increased 75 percent since 1980;

22 (6) more than 15 million Americans suffer from
23 an asthma;

24 (7) children residing in the poorest neighbor-
25 hoods of some of America’s largest cities suffer dis-
26 proportionately from asthma;

1 (8) research supported by the National Insti-
2 tutes of Health has conclusively demonstrated that
3 the combination of cockroach allergen and exposure
4 to the insects is an important cause of asthma-relat-
5 ed illnesses and hospitalizations among children in
6 inner-city areas of the United States;

7 (9) cities outside the United States have devel-
8 oped and implemented effective systems of cockroach
9 management;

10 (10) integrated pest management is a cost-ef-
11 fective approach to pest control that emphasizes pre-
12 vention, and uses a range of techniques, including
13 property maintenance and cleaning, and uses pes-
14 ticides as means of last resort;

15 (11) integrated pest management has been used
16 successfully by Federal agencies, including the Gen-
17 eral Services Administration and the National For-
18 est Service;

19 (12) reducing exposure to cockroach allergen,
20 as part of an integrated approach to asthma man-
21 agement, may be a cost-effective way of reducing the
22 social and economic costs of the disease; and

23 (13) no current Federal funding exists specifi-
24 cally to assist cities in developing and implementing
25 integrated strategies to reduce cockroach infestation.

1 **SEC. 3. PREVENTIVE HEALTH AND HEALTH SERVICES**
2 **BLOCK GRANT; SYSTEMS FOR REDUCING**
3 **ASTHMA AND ASTHMA-RELATED ILLNESSES**
4 **THROUGH URBAN COCKROACH MANAGE-**
5 **MENT.**

6 Section 1904(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act
7 (42 U.S.C. 300w-3(a)(1)) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subparagraphs (E) and
9 (F) as subparagraphs (F) and (G), respectively;

10 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (D) the fol-
11 lowing subparagraph:

12 “(E) The establishment, operation, and coordi-
13 nation of effective and cost-efficient systems to re-
14 duce the prevalence of asthma and asthma-related
15 illnesses among urban populations, especially chil-
16 dren, by reducing the level of exposure to cockroach
17 allergen through the use of integrated pest manage-
18 ment, as applied to cockroaches. Amounts expended
19 for such systems may include the costs of structural
20 rehabilitation of housing, public schools, and other
21 public facilities to reduce cockroach infestation, the
22 costs of building maintenance, and the costs of pro-
23 grams to promote community participation in the
24 carrying out at such sites of integrated pest manage-
25 ment as applied to cockroaches. For purposes of this
26 subparagraph, the term ‘integrated pest manage-

1 ment’ means an approach to the management of
2 pests in public facilities that minimizes or avoids the
3 use of pesticide chemicals through a combination of
4 appropriate practices regarding the maintenance,
5 cleaning, and monitoring of such sites.”;

6 (3) in subparagraph (F) (as redesignated by
7 paragraph (1)), by striking “subparagraphs (A)
8 through (D)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A)
9 through (E)”;

10 (4) in subparagraph (G) (as so redesignated),
11 by striking “subparagraphs (A) through (E)” and
12 inserting “subparagraphs (A) through (F).”.

○