

109TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5250

To amend the Public Health Service Act regarding early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 27, 2006

Mr. WALSH (for himself, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. McHUGH, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. FARR, Mr. BACHUS, Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. KUHLE of New York, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. WYNN, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mrs. KELLY, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act regarding early detection, diagnosis, and treatment of hearing loss.

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 “Early Hearing Detec-  
5 tion and Intervention Act of 2006”.

1 **SEC. 2. EARLY DETECTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT**  
2 **OF HEARING LOSS.**

3 Section 399M of the Public Health Service Act (42  
4 U.S.C. 280g-1) is amended—

5 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**IN-**  
6 **FANTS**” and inserting “**NEWBORNS, INFANTS,**  
7 **AND YOUNG CHILDREN**”;

8 (2) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) in the heading, by striking “**NEWBORN**  
10 **AND INFANT**” and inserting “**NEWBORN, IN-**  
11 **FANT, AND YOUNG CHILD**”;

12 (B) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
13 by striking “newborn and infant hearing screen-  
14 ing, evaluation and intervention programs and  
15 systems” and inserting “newborn, infant, and  
16 young child hearing screening, evaluation, diag-  
17 nosis, and intervention programs and systems,  
18 and to assist in the recruitment, retention, edu-  
19 cation, and training of qualified personnel and  
20 health care providers,”; and

21 (C) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
22 follows:

23 “(1) To develop and monitor the efficacy of  
24 statewide programs and systems for hearing screen-  
25 ing of newborns, infants, and young children;  
26 prompt evaluation and diagnosis of children referred

1 from screening programs; and appropriate edu-  
2 cational, audiological, and medical interventions for  
3 children identified with hearing loss. Early interven-  
4 tion includes referral to and delivery of information  
5 and services by schools and agencies, including com-  
6 munity, consumer, and parent-based agencies and  
7 organizations and other programs mandated by part  
8 C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act,  
9 which offer programs specifically designed to meet  
10 the unique language and communication needs of  
11 deaf and hard of hearing newborns, infants, and  
12 young children. Programs and systems under this  
13 paragraph shall establish and foster family-to-family  
14 support mechanisms that are critical in the first  
15 months after a child is identified with hearing loss.”;

16 (D) in paragraph (2), by striking “new-  
17 born and infant” and inserting “newborn, in-  
18 fant, and young child”; and

19 (E) by adding at the end the following:

20 “(3) To develop efficient models to ensure that  
21 newborns, infants, and young children who are iden-  
22 tified with a hearing loss through screening are not  
23 lost to follow-up by a qualified health care provider.  
24 These models shall be evaluated for their effective-  
25 ness, and State agencies shall be encouraged to

1 adopt models that effectively reduce loss to follow-  
2 up.

3 “(4) To ensure an adequate supply of qualified  
4 personnel to meet the screening, evaluation, and  
5 early intervention needs of children.”;

6 (3) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) by striking the term “newborn and  
9 infant” each place such term appears and  
10 inserting “newborn, infant, and young  
11 child”; and

12 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking  
13 “hearing loss screening, evaluation, and  
14 intervention programs” and inserting  
15 “hearing loss screening, evaluation, diag-  
16 nosis, and intervention programs”;

17 (B) in paragraph (2)—

18 (i) by striking “for purposes of this  
19 section, continue” and insert the following:  
20 “for purposes of this section—  
21 “(A) continue”;

22 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
23 and inserting “; and”; and

24 (iii) by adding at the end the fol-  
25 lowing:

1           “(B) establish a postdoctoral fellowship  
2           program to foster research and development in  
3           the area of early hearing detection and inter-  
4           vention.”;

5           (4) in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (c),  
6           by striking the term “newborn and infant hearing  
7           screening, evaluation and intervention programs”  
8           each place such term appears and inserting “new-  
9           born, infant, and young child hearing screening,  
10          evaluation, diagnosis, and intervention programs”;  
11          and

12          (5) in subsection (e)—

13                (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “ensur-  
14                ing that families of the child” and all that fol-  
15                lows and inserting “ensuring that families of  
16                the child are provided comprehensive, con-  
17                sumer-oriented information about the full range  
18                of family support, training, information serv-  
19                ices, and language and communication options  
20                and are given the opportunity to consider and  
21                obtain the full range of early intervention serv-  
22                ices, educational and program placements, and  
23                other options for their child from highly quali-  
24                fied providers.”; and

25                (B) in paragraph (6)—

1 (i) by striking “newborn and infant”  
2 and inserting “newborn, infant, and young  
3 child”;

4 (ii) by striking “newborns and in-  
5 fants” and inserting “newborns, infants,  
6 and young children”; and

7 (iii) by striking “, after rescreening,”;  
8 and

9 (6) in subsection (f)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) in the heading, by striking “NEW-  
12 BORN AND INFANT” and inserting “NEW-  
13 BORN, INFANT, AND YOUNG CHILD”; and

14 (ii) by striking “fiscal year 2002” and  
15 inserting “fiscal years 2007 through  
16 2012”;

17 (B) in paragraph (2), by striking “fiscal  
18 year 2002” and inserting “fiscal years 2007  
19 through 2012”; and

20 (C) in paragraph (3), by striking “fiscal  
21 year 2002” and inserting “fiscal years 2007  
22 through 2012”.

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