

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 521

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the national collection of data on stillbirths in a standardized manner, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 14, 2009

Mr. KING of New York (for himself and Mr. GONZALEZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the national collection of data on stillbirths in a standardized manner, 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 “Stillbirth Awareness
5 and Research Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL STILLBIRTH REGISTRY.**

7 Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after sec-
9 tion 317T the following:

1 **“SEC. 317U. NATIONAL STILLBIRTH REGISTRY.**

2 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—For the purposes described
3 in subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Direc-
4 tor of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
5 shall, by grant or contract, establish and maintain a sci-
6 entific registry of stillbirths in the United States (in this
7 section referred to as the ‘registry’).

8 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the registry are—

9 “(1) to provide a national repository for report-
10 ing and maintaining in a consistent manner data on
11 stillbirths; and

12 “(2) to make such data available for research
13 on the causes and prevention of stillbirths.

14 “(c) CONTENT.—The registry shall include, with re-
15 spect to each stillbirth, information on the stillborn fetus
16 and the mother’s health and pregnancy as collected and
17 submitted by States on the U.S. Standard Report of Fetal
18 Death. In submitting such information, the Director of the
19 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall require
20 States to use the standard definition of stillbirth and the
21 standard protocol for stillbirth data collection and surveil-
22 lance as determined pursuant to subsection (d).

23 “(d) DETERMINATION OF STANDARD STILLBIRTH
24 DEFINITION AND PROTOCOL.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this sec-
 2 tion, the Secretary shall provide for the development
 3 of the following:

4 “(A) A standard definition of stillbirth.

5 “(B) A standard protocol for stillbirth data
 6 collection and surveillance.

7 “(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall en-
 8 sure that the standard definition and protocol de-
 9 scribed paragraph (1) are developed under such
 10 paragraph in a manner that ensures the consultation
 11 of representatives of health care organizations, State
 12 and local governments, and other interested entities
 13 specified by the Secretary.”.

14 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NIH FUNDING FOR STILL-**
 15 **BIRTH RESEARCH.**

16 It is the sense of the Congress that the Director of
 17 the National Institutes of Health should increase the allo-
 18 cation of funds and other resources for stillbirth research.

19 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
 21 Human Services shall carry out a national campaign to
 22 increase public awareness and knowledge of stillbirths and
 23 public and State awareness of the standard stillbirth defi-
 24 nition and standard protocol for stillbirth data collection

1 and surveillance under section 317U of the Public Health
2 Service Act, as added by section 2.

3 (b) MEASURES TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF
4 STILLBIRTHS.—Activities under the national campaign
5 under subsection (a) shall include—

6 (1) the dissemination of information on meas-
7 ures for mothers to maintain a healthy pregnancy
8 and assess fetal health;

9 (2) the dissemination of information on good
10 prenatal care practices such as not drinking alcohol
11 or smoking; and

12 (3) the promotion of fetal movement awareness
13 and taking proactive steps to monitor a baby's move-
14 ment beginning at approximately 28 weeks into the
15 pregnancy.

○