

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6402

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to 10 States for demonstration projects for the expansion of State registries on childhood immunization or health to include data on body mass index (BMI), collected and submitted to the State by health care providers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

Mr. MORAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to 10 States for demonstration projects for the expansion of State registries on childhood immunization or health to include data on body mass index (BMI), collected and submitted to the State by health care providers.

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 “Surveillance, Tracking,
5 Observation, and Prevention of Obesity Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Childhood obesity is at epidemic levels in
2 this Nation.

3 (2) A surveillance system to monitor childhood
4 obesity prevalence across the United States is need-
5 ed to assess and address the situation.

6 (3) Systems should be based on body mass
7 index (“BMI”), calculated from measured height
8 and weight of children, and should be implemented
9 in all States and territories.

10 (4) Any national system should ideally be built
11 upon existing State-level public health infrastruc-
12 ture, such as immunization registries.

13 (5) All 50 States currently maintain childhood
14 immunization tracking systems; their usage to track
15 childhood obesity data to build a national childhood
16 obesity surveillance system would limit the need to
17 create an entirely new or overlapping surveillance
18 system.

19 (6) Immunization information systems under
20 subsections (a), (j), and (k)(1) of section 317 of the
21 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b) is fre-
22 quently the backbone of more comprehensive child
23 health information systems.

24 (7) Existing immunization information systems
25 can provide an assessment mechanism for childhood

1 obesity prevalence and trends more accurate than
2 that assessed from existing survey data and can
3 measure the effectiveness of obesity intervention/
4 wellness policies and programs already underway.

5 (8) BMI is considered the “gold standard” for
6 screening children for obesity, since it is based on
7 routinely assessed measurements of height and
8 weight.

9 (9) Data should be collected by trained health
10 professionals in clinical settings, not in a school set-
11 ting.

12 (10) Data collected must be interoperable be-
13 tween each State and have the ability to be analyzed
14 at the local level.

15 (11) The robust monitoring of local obesity
16 prevalence rates in children is an essential first step
17 in epidemic prevention and control. There is an ur-
18 gent need for accurate population-based data sys-
19 tems to understand obesity prevalence, trends, and
20 disparities among youth. The lack of data on inter-
21 vention programs constrains the ability of planners
22 and researchers to evaluate the effectiveness of
23 intervention efforts.

1 **SEC. 3. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS FOR EXPANSION OF**
2 **STATE REGISTRIES TO INCLUDE DATA ON**
3 **BODY MASS INDEX.**

4 Subsection (k) of section 317 of the Public Health
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as
7 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (2) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(3)(A) The Secretary shall make grants to 10 States
11 for demonstration projects for the expansion of State reg-
12 istries on childhood immunization or health to include
13 data on body mass index (BMI), collected and submitted
14 to the State by health care providers.

15 “(B) To ensure that data maintained by a State in
16 a registry funded under this paragraph can be analyzed
17 by the Federal Government and by other State govern-
18 ments, the Secretary shall require the registry to meet
19 data standards and be interoperable.

20 “(C) The Secretary shall conduct a study of the dem-
21 onstration projects funded under this paragraph and, not
22 later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this
23 paragraph, submit to the Congress a report on the results
24 of such study, including an analysis of the effectiveness
25 of such projects.”.