

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3461

To amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a National Pediatric Research Network, including with respect to pediatric rare diseases or conditions.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 31, 2012

Mr. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. WICKER, Mr. KERRY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. BEGICH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend title IV of the Public Health Service Act to provide for a National Pediatric Research Network, including with respect to pediatric rare diseases or conditions.

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 “National Pediatric Re-
5 search Network Act of 2012”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL PEDIATRIC RESEARCH NETWORK.**

2 Section 409D of the Public Health Service Act (42
3 U.S.C. 284h; relating to the Pediatric Research Initiative)
4 is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
6 section (f); and

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(d) NATIONAL PEDIATRIC RESEARCH NETWORK.—

10 “(1) NETWORK.—In carrying out the Initiative,
11 the Director of NIH, acting through the Director of
12 the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of
13 Child Health and Human Development and in col-
14 laboration with other appropriate national research
15 institutes and national centers that carry out activi-
16 ties involving pediatric research, may provide for the
17 establishment of a National Pediatric Research Net-
18 work consisting of the pediatric research consortia
19 receiving awards under paragraph (2).

20 “(2) PEDIATRIC RESEARCH CONSORTIA.—

21 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the
22 Institute may award cooperative agreements
23 and grants to public or private nonprofit enti-
24 ties—

“(i) for planning, establishing, or strengthening pediatric research consortia; and

“(ii) for providing basic operating support for such consortia, including with respect to—

“(I) basic, clinical, behavioral, or translational research to meet unmet needs for pediatric research; and

“(II) training researchers in pediatric research techniques.

“(B) RESEARCH.—The Director of NIH shall ensure that—

“(i) each consortium receiving an award under subparagraph (A) conducts or supports at least one category of research described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(I) and collectively such consortia conduct or support all such categories of research; and

“(ii) one or more such consortia provides training described in subparagraph (A)(ii)(II).

“(C) NUMBER OF CONSORTIA.—The Director of NIH may make awards under this para-

1 graph for not more than 20 pediatric research
2 consortia.

3 “(D) ORGANIZATION OF CONSORTIUM.—
4 Each consortium receiving an award under sub-
5 paragraph (A) shall—

6 “(i) be formed from a collaboration of
7 cooperating institutions;

8 “(ii) be coordinated by a lead institu-
9 tion; and

10 “(iii) meet such requirements as may
11 be prescribed by the Director of NIH.

12 “(E) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Any
13 support received by a consortium under sub-
14 paragraph (A) shall be used to supplement, and
15 not supplant, other public or private support for
16 activities authorized to be supported under this
17 paragraph.

18 “(F) DURATION OF SUPPORT.—Support of
19 a consortium under subparagraph (A) may be
20 for a period of not to exceed 5 years. Such pe-
21 riod may be extended by the Director of NIH
22 for additional periods of not more than 5 years.

23 “(3) COORDINATION OF CONSORTIA ACTIVI-
24 TIES.—The Director of NIH shall—

1 “(A) as appropriate, provide for the coordi-
2 nation of activities (including the exchange of
3 information and regular communication) among
4 the consortia established pursuant to paragraph
5 (2); and

6 “(B) require the periodic preparation and
7 submission to the Director of reports on the ac-
8 tivities of each such consortium.

9 “(e) RESEARCH ON PEDIATRIC RARE DISEASES OR
10 CONDITIONS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In making awards under
12 subsection (d)(2) for pediatric research consortia,
13 the Director of NIH shall ensure that an appro-
14 priate number of such awards are awarded to such
15 consortia that agree to—

16 “(A) focus primarily on pediatric rare dis-
17 eases or conditions (including any such diseases
18 or conditions that are genetic disorders (such as
19 spinal muscular atrophy and Duchenne mus-
20 cular dystrophy) or are related to birth defects
21 (such as Down syndrome and fragile X));

22 “(B) conduct or coordinate one or more
23 multisite clinical trials of therapies for, or ap-
24 proaches to, the prevention, diagnosis, or treat-

1 ment of one or more pediatric rare diseases or
2 conditions; and

3 “(C) rapidly and efficiently disseminate
4 scientific findings resulting from such trials.

5 “(2) DATA COORDINATING CENTER.—

6 “(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—In connection
7 with support of consortia described in para-
8 graph (1), the Director of NIH shall establish
9 a data coordinating center for the following
10 purposes:

11 “(i) To distribute the scientific find-
12 ings referred to in paragraph (1)(C).

13 “(ii) To provide assistance in the de-
14 sign and conduct of collaborative research
15 projects and the management, analysis,
16 and storage of data associated with such
17 projects.

18 “(iii) To organize and conduct
19 multisite monitoring activities.

20 “(iv) To provide assistance to the
21 Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
22 tion in the establishment of patient reg-
23 istries.

24 “(B) REPORTING.—The Director of NIH
25 shall—

1 “(i) require the data coordinating cen-
2 ter established under subparagraph (A) to
3 provide regular reports to the Director of
4 NIH and the Commissioner of Food and
5 Drugs on research conducted by consortia
6 described in paragraph (1), including infor-
7 mation on enrollment in clinical trials and
8 the allocation of resources with respect to
9 such research; and

10 “(ii) as appropriate, incorporate infor-
11 mation reported under clause (i) into the
12 Director’s biennial reports under section
13 403.

14 “(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term
15 ‘pediatric rare disease or condition’ means a rare
16 disease or condition (as defined in section 526(a)(2)
17 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act) that
18 affects pediatric populations.”.

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