

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7035

To provide for a National Strategy To Increase Life Expectancy, and for
other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 5, 2018

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Ms. KELLY
of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Com-
mittee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for a National Strategy To Increase Life
Expectancy, 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 “National Strategy To
5 Increase Life Expectancy Act of 2018”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) United States life expectancy at birth, for-
9 merly longer than many other wealthy nations, has
10 lagged over the past four decades and currently

1 stands at 78.6 years compared with the Organiza-
2 tion for Economic Cooperation and Development av-
3 erage of nearly 81 years.

4 (2) If United States life expectancy matched
5 the Organization for Economic Cooperation and De-
6 velopment average, more than 210,000 deaths would
7 be prevented annually.

8 (3) United States life expectancy declined in
9 2015 and 2016, the first decline in 2 consecutive
10 years since a deadly influenza pandemic caused de-
11 clines in 1962 and 1963.

12 (4) Preliminary data indicates that United
13 States life expectancy declined in 2017, which would
14 mark the first decline in 3 consecutive years since
15 1916–1918, which included the Spanish influenza
16 pandemic that killed an estimated 675,000 Ameri-
17 cans.

18 (5) The gap in life expectancy between the
19 United States and the Organization for Economic
20 Cooperation and Development has been attributed in
21 part to numerous factors, including the opioid epi-
22 demic, smoking, obesity, insufficient exercise, infant
23 mortality, maternal mortality, affordable access to
24 high-quality health care, gun violence, economic in-
25 equality, and social isolation.

1 (6) There is significant and growing inequality
2 in life expectancy in the United States based on so-
3 cioeconomic status, race, ethnicity, and geography.

4 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL STRATEGY TO INCREASE LIFE EXPECT-**
5 **ANCY.**

6 The Public Health Service Act is amended by insert-
7 ing after section 310A of such Act (42 U.S.C. 242s) the
8 following new section:

9 **“SEC. 310B. NATIONAL STRATEGY TO INCREASE LIFE EX-**
10 **PECTANCY.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop and
12 maintain a national strategy to be known as the National
13 Strategy To Increase Life Expectancy (in this section re-
14 ferred to as the ‘National Strategy’) for increasing life ex-
15 pectancy in the United States to, at minimum, the average
16 life expectancy in the member countries of the Organiza-
17 tion for Economic Cooperation and Development.

18 “(b) PROCESS; TRANSMITTAL TO CONGRESS AND
19 PUBLIC RELEASE.—

20 “(1) PROCESS.—The Secretary shall—

21 “(A) develop the National Strategy and
22 each update thereto in consultation with—

23 “(i) other Federal departments and
24 agencies as appropriate; and

1 “(ii) medical professionals, patient ad-
2 vocates, and experts in public health and
3 other subject matter areas impacting life
4 expectancy; and

5 “(B) shall publish a proposed version of
6 the National Strategy and each update thereto
7 in the Federal Register and provide a period of
8 at least 30 days for the public to submit com-
9 ments on each such proposal before finalizing
10 the National Strategy or update, respectively.

11 “(2) TRANSMITTAL; RELEASE.—Not later than
12 2 years after the date of enactment of the National
13 Strategy To Increase Life Expectancy Act of 2018,
14 the Secretary shall—

15 “(A) transmit the final National Strategy
16 to the appropriate congressional committees;
17 and

18 “(B) release the final National Strategy to
19 the public.

20 “(3) UPDATES.—Every 2 years following the
21 transmittal under paragraph (2) of the initial Na-
22 tional Strategy, the Secretary shall—

23 “(A) make updates, as the Secretary deter-
24 mines appropriate, to the National Strategy

pursuant to the process described in paragraph (1);

“(B) transmit the updated National Strategy to the appropriate congressional committees; and

“(C) release the updated National Strategy to the public.

“(4) APPOINTMENT OF SENIOR OFFICIAL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate a senior official at the Department of Health and Human Services to be responsible for coordinating the development, updating, and implementation of the National Strategy.

“(B) DUTIES.—The duties of the official designated under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(i) acting as a liaison with all Federal agencies regarding the development, updating, and implementation of the National Strategy;

“(ii) working to ensure that there is proper coordination among agencies in developing, updating, and implementing the National Strategy;

“(iii) being knowledgeable about budget priorities and familiar with all efforts

1 within the Department of Health and
2 Human Services impacting life expectancy;
3 and

4 “(iv) communicating the National
5 Strategy to Congress and being available
6 to answer questions related to the National
7 Strategy at congressional hearings, if re-
8 quested by committees of appropriate ju-
9 risdiction, on the contents of the National
10 Strategy and the progress of the Depart-
11 ment of Health and Human Services in
12 implementing the National Strategy.

13 “(c) CONTENTS.—The National Strategy shall in-
14 clude the following:

15 “(1) CAUSES.—An identification of the most
16 significant causes of premature death in the United
17 States, including an analysis of the relative impor-
18 tance of the opioid epidemic, smoking, obesity, insuf-
19 ficient exercise, infant mortality, maternal mortality,
20 affordable access to high-quality health care, gun vi-
21 olence, economic inequality, social isolation, and
22 such other factors or causes as the Secretary deter-
23 mines to be significant, in preventing the life expect-
24 ancy in the United States from being as high as the
25 average life expectancy in the member countries of

1 the Organization for Economic Cooperation and De-
2 velopment.

3 “(2) ANALYSIS OF RECENT ABSOLUTE DE-
4 CLINE.—A discussion of and data regarding—

5 “(A) in the initial National Strategy, the
6 absolute decline of life expectancy in the United
7 States preceding the enactment of the National
8 Strategy To Increase Life Expectancy Act of
9 2018; and

10 “(B) in each update to the National Strat-
11 egy, any absolute decline of life expectancy in
12 the United States over the period since the pre-
13 vious transmittal of the National Strategy pur-
14 suant to subsection (b).

15 “(3) ANALYSIS OF INEQUALITY IN LIFE EX-
16 PECTANCY WITHIN THE UNITED STATES.—A discus-
17 sion of and data regarding the inequality in life ex-
18 pectancy within the United States.

19 “(4) ANALYSIS OF DIFFERENCES IN LIFE EX-
20 PECTANCY BY SEX.—A discussion of and data re-
21 garding differences in life expectancy, including dif-
22 fering causes of premature death, between men and
23 women.

24 “(5) ANALYSIS OF DIFFERING CAUSES OF PRE-
25 MATURE DEATH BY AGE.—A discussion of and data

1 regarding differing causes of premature death for
2 Americans of different age groups, and how such
3 differing causes have contributed to the gap between
4 the life expectancy in the United States and the av-
5 erage life expectancy in the member countries of the
6 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Devel-
7 opment.

8 “(6) EVALUATION OF EXISTING EFFORTS.—An
9 assessment of the effectiveness of and ways in which
10 the Federal Government is addressing the causes
11 identified under paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and
12 (5) which shall include a projection of life expect-
13 ancy in the United States in each of the next 10
14 years.

15 “(7) PROPOSED CHANGES.—A discussion of
16 comprehensive, research-based, long-range, quantifi-
17 able proposed changes to efforts in order to—

18 “(A) expeditiously increase the life expect-
19 ancy in the United States to, at a minimum,
20 the average life expectancy in the member coun-
21 tries of the Organization for Economic Coopera-
22 tion and Development; and

23 “(B) significantly reduce the inequality in
24 life expectancy within the United States.

1 “(8) PROJECTION OF LIFE EXPECTANCY GAINS
2 WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF PROPOSED CHANGES.—

3 A projection of life expectancy in the United States
4 in each year of implementation of the changes pro-
5 posed in the National Strategy, and a projection of
6 the life expectancy in the member countries of the
7 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Devel-
8 opment in each of those years, until such year as the
9 projected life expectancy in the United States equals
10 or exceeds the projected average life expectancy in
11 the member countries of the Organization for Eco-
12 nomic Cooperation and Development.

13 “(9) BUDGET.—A proposed budget that identi-
14 fies sufficient resources needed to successfully exe-
15 cute the National Strategy until such year as the
16 projected life expectancy in the United States equals
17 or exceeds the projected average life expectancy in
18 the member countries of the Organization for Eco-
19 nomic Cooperation and Development.

20 “(10) AUTHORITY FOR PROPOSED CHANGES.—
21 For each change proposed in the National Strategy,
22 a determination of which, if any, Federal depart-
23 ment or agency should be responsible for imple-
24 menting such change and whether the department or
25 agency has the authority and resources to do so.

1 “(d) IMPLEMENTATION.—The head of each Federal
2 department or agency shall, pursuant to authority vested
3 in the department or agency by provisions of law other
4 than this section, work to implement each proposed rec-
5 ommendation in the National Strategy, as applicable, un-
6 less the National Strategy indicates that the department
7 or agency needs additional resources or authorities to un-
8 dertake such implementation.

9 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
10 carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-
11 priated—

12 “(1) \$2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020
13 and 2021; and

14 “(2) \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022
15 through 2029.”.

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