

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2076

To establish a demonstration program to explore effective practices to improve early detection and management of injuries indicative of potential abuse in infants under the age of 7 months, in order to prevent future cases of child abuse and related fatalities.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 3, 2019

Ms. SCHRIER (for herself and Mr. STIVERS) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To establish a demonstration program to explore effective practices to improve early detection and management of injuries indicative of potential abuse in infants under the age of 7 months, in order to prevent future cases of child abuse and related fatalities.

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 Detection to  
5       Stop Infant Abuse and Prevent Fatalities Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress finds as follows:

15 (3) Multiple studies have found that relatively  
16 minor, visible injuries in young infants, including  
17 bruising and intraoral injuries, are often indicators  
18 of abuse. Such injuries are commonly overlooked by  
19 medical providers, caregivers, and child welfare pro-  
20 fessionals because they seem trivial. Without early  
21 intervention, physical abuse can escalate, resulting  
22 in severe injuries or even fatalities. Many child  
23 abuse professionals refer to such injuries as “sen-  
24 tinel injuries” in young infants because of their im-  
25 portance as early warning signs of abuse.

### 23 SEC. 3. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM.

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
25 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-

1   retary") shall establish a demonstration program to award  
2   grants to eligible entities in order to test effective practices  
3   to improve early detection and management of injuries in-  
4   dicative of potential abuse in infants under the age of 7  
5   months to prevent future cases of child abuse and related  
6   fatalities.

7 (b) ACTIVITIES.—Recipients of grants under this sec-  
8 tion—

9 (1) shall use such award to—

10 (A) develop, implement, or expand training  
11 and best practices to assist medical profes-  
12 sionals in identifying, assessing, and responding  
13 to injuries indicative of potential abuse in in-  
14 fants under the age of 7 months, particularly  
15 bruising and oral injuries;

16 (B) develop protocols and policies that im-  
17 prove communication and coordination between  
18 mandatory reporters and child protective serv-  
19 ices when such reporters identify such injuries;  
20 and

21 (C) conduct the evaluation under sub-  
22 section (e); and

23 (2) may use such award—

24 (A) to raise awareness regarding the sig-  
25 nificance of such injuries by mandatory report-

1                   ers, health professionals, the public, profes-  
2                   sionals caring for children, home visitors, child  
3                   care workers, and child protective services staff;  
4                   and

5 (B) for other purposes, as the Secretary  
6 determines appropriate, including using the ap-  
7 proaches described in subparagraphs (A)  
8 through (C) of paragraph (1) to address inju-  
9 ries indicative of potential abuse in children  
10 aged 7 months and older.

11 (c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
13 grant under this section, an entity shall—

14 (A) demonstrate knowledge and experience  
15 providing health services to children and identi-  
16 fying and responding to child maltreatment;  
17 and

18 (B) submit to the Secretary an application  
19 at such time, in such manner, and containing  
20 such information as the Secretary may require,  
21 including—

22 (i) a description of the entity's  
23 planned activities, including—

24 (I) plans to reduce child re-vic-  
25 timization and child fatalities; and

1 (II) plans to evaluate success, in-  
2 cluding pertinent data sources that  
3 will be developed or utilized; and  
4 (ii) entities with whom the applicant  
5 will collaborate in carrying out the activi-  
6 ties under the grant.

22 (d) GRANT PERIOD.—Grants awarded under this sec-  
23 tion are for a 3-year period.

24 (e) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall require each  
25 recipient of a grant under this section to—

1 (1) evaluate and assess—

2 (A) the efficacy of the projects carried out  
3 with grant funds; and

4 (B) the extent to which such projects re-  
5 duced re-victimization of children and child fa-  
6 talities; and

9 (f) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year  
0 after the conclusion of the demonstration program under  
1 this section and the submission of the report and data  
2 under subsection (e)(1), the Secretary shall submit to  
3 Congress a report that includes—

14 (1) an analysis of the strengths and opportuni-  
15 ties of the program;

16 (2) barriers or challenges for implementing or  
17 replicating best practices under the program;

21 (4) areas for further research or evaluation to  
22 improve early detection of such injuries.

1        (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
2 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
3 \$10,000,000 for the period of 2020 through 2022.

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