

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5939

To provide for research and education with respect to triple-negative breast cancer, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 21, 2020

Ms. JACKSON LEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for research and education with respect to triple-negative breast cancer, 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 “Triple-Negative Breast
5 Cancer Research and Education Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) Breast cancer accounts for 1 in 4 cancer di-
9 agnoses among women in this country.

1 (2) The survival rate for breast cancer has in-
2 creased to 90 percent for White women and 78 per-
3 cent for African-American women.

4 (3) African-American women are more likely to
5 be diagnosed with larger tumors and more advanced
6 stages of breast cancer despite a lower incidence
7 rate.

8 (4) Early detection for breast cancer increases
9 survival rates for breast cancer, as evidenced by a 5-
10 year relative survival rate of 98 percent for breast
11 cancers that are discovered before the cancer
12 spreads beyond the breast, compared to 23 percent
13 for stage IV breast cancers.

14 (5) Triple-negative breast cancer is a term used
15 to describe breast cancers whose cells do not have
16 estrogen receptors and progesterone receptors, and
17 do not have an excess of the HER2 protein on their
18 sources.

19 (6) It is estimated that between 10 and 20 per-
20 cent of female breast cancer patients are diagnosed
21 with triple-negative breast cancer, and studies indi-
22 cate the prevalence of triple-negative breast cancer is
23 much higher.

1 (7) Triple-negative breast cancer most com-
2 monly affects African-American women, followed by
3 Hispanic women.

4 (8) Triple-negative breast cancer is a very ag-
5 gressive form of cancer which affects women under
6 the age of 50 across all racial and socioeconomic
7 backgrounds.

8 (9) African-American women are 3 times more
9 likely to develop triple-negative breast cancer than
10 White women.

11 (10) Triple-negative breast cancer tends to
12 grow and spread more quickly than most other types
13 of breast cancer.

14 (11) Like other forms of breast cancer, triple-
15 negative breast cancer is treated with surgery, radi-
16 ation therapy, or chemotherapy.

17 (12) Early-stage detection of triple-negative
18 breast cancer is the key to survival because the
19 tumor cells lack certain receptors, and neither hor-
20 mone therapy nor drugs that target these receptors
21 are effective against these cancers; therefore, early
22 detection and education is vital.

23 (13) Current research and available data do not
24 provide adequate information on—

1 (A) the rates of prevalence and incidence
 2 of triple-negative breast cancer in African-
 3 American, Hispanic, and other minority women;

4 (B) the costs associated with treating tri-
 5 ple-negative breast cancer; and

6 (C) the methods by which triple-negative
 7 breast cancer may be prevented or cured in
 8 these women.

9 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH WITH RESPECT TO TRIPLE-NEGATIVE**
 10 **BREAST CANCER.**

11 (a) RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Insti-
 12 tutes of Health (in this section referred to as the “Direc-
 13 tor of NIH”) shall expand, intensify, and coordinate pro-
 14 grams for the conduct and support of research with re-
 15 spect to triple-negative breast cancer.

16 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director of NIH shall
 17 carry out this section through the appropriate institutes,
 18 offices, and centers of the National Institutes of Health,
 19 including the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute
 20 of Child Health and Human Development, the National
 21 Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the Office of
 22 Research on Women’s Health, and the National Institute
 23 on Minority Health and Health Disparities.

24 (c) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Director of
 25 the Office of Research on Women’s Health shall coordi-

1 nate activities under this section among the institutes, of-
2 fices, and centers of the National Institutes of Health.

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
4 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
5 to be appropriated \$500,000 for each of the fiscal years
6 2020 through 2022.

7 **SEC. 4. EDUCATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION**
8 **WITH RESPECT TO TRIPLE-NEGATIVE**
9 **BREAST CANCER.**

10 (a) TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CANCER PUBLIC
11 EDUCATION PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Health and
12 Human Services, acting through the Director of the Cen-
13 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, shall develop and
14 disseminate to the public information regarding triple-neg-
15 ative breast cancer, including information on—

16 (1) the incidence and prevalence of triple-nega-
17 tive breast cancer among women;

18 (2) the elevated risk for minority women to de-
19 velop triple-negative breast cancer; and

20 (3) the availability, as medically appropriate, of
21 a range of treatment options for symptomatic triple-
22 negative breast cancer.

23 (b) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
24 retary may disseminate information under subsection (a)
25 directly or through arrangements with nonprofit organiza-

1 tions, consumer groups, institutions of higher education,
2 Federal, State, or local agencies, or the media.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
4 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
5 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
6 each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2022.

7 **SEC. 5. INFORMATION TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WITH**
8 **RESPECT TO TRIPLE-NEGATIVE BREAST CAN-**
9 **CER.**

10 (a) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
11 retary of Health and Human Services, acting through the
12 Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Ad-
13 ministration, shall develop and disseminate to health care
14 providers information on triple-negative breast cancer for
15 the purpose of ensuring that health care providers remain
16 informed about current information on triple-negative
17 breast cancer. Such information shall include the elevated
18 risk for minority women to develop triple-negative breast
19 cancer and the range of available options for the treatment
20 of symptomatic triple-negative breast cancer.

21 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
22 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
23 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
24 each of the fiscal years 2020 through 2024.

1 **SEC. 6. DEFINITION.**

2 In this Act, the term “minority women” means
3 women who are members of a racial and ethnic minority
4 group, as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6(g)).

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