

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8540

To require the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services to conduct a study of how housing design can help prevent the spread of communicable diseases, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 6, 2020

Mr. KATKO (for himself, Mr. ROSE of New York, Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire, and Mr. DELGADO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

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## A BILL

To require the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Agriculture, and Health and Human Services to conduct a study of how housing design can help prevent the spread of communicable diseases, 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 “Keeping Seniors Safe  
5       from COVID-19 Through Home Design Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT ON HOUSING DESIGN.**

2 (a) STUDY.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban  
3 Development, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Sec-  
4 retary of Health and Human Services shall jointly conduct  
5 a study to identify improved home and housing design fea-  
6 tures and improved design features in nursing homes and  
7 assisted living facilities that can help prevent and protect  
8 against the spread of infection by communicable diseases,  
9 including the novel coronavirus disease (COVID–19), and  
10 how such design features could be incorporated under  
11 housing assistance and mortgage insurance programs of  
12 the Department of Housing and Urban Development and  
13 the Department of Agriculture. The study shall consider  
14 any advantages that might result from updated or im-  
15 proved heating, ventilation, and air conditioning systems,  
16 installation of hands-free sinks, incorporation of outdoor  
17 space, redesign and re-use of existing space, and other de-  
18 sign features and shall consider design features specific  
19 to housing for particular populations, including elderly  
20 persons, persons with disabilities, and homeless persons,

21 (b) REPORT.—Not later than the expiration of the  
22 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment  
23 of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-  
24 ment, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of  
25 Health and Human Services shall jointly submit to the  
26 Congress a report describing the study conducted pursu-

1 ant to subsection (a) and setting forth the findings and  
2 conclusions of the study, including any recommendations  
3 regarding improved home and housing design, improved  
4 design features in nursing homes and assisted living facili-  
5 ties, and implementation of such recommendations.

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