

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 6238

To establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National Institutes of Health.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National Institutes of Health.

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 “NIH Implementing
5 a Maternal health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for
6 Everyone” or the “NIH IMPROVE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.**

8 Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
10 the following:

1 **“SEC. 409K. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall con-
3 tinue to carry out a program to improve maternal health
4 outcomes, to be known as the Implementing a Maternal
5 health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Ini-
6 tiative or the ‘IMPROVE Initiative’ (referred to in this
7 section as the ‘Initiative’).

8 “(b) OBJECTIVES.—The Initiative shall—

9 “(1) advance research to—

10 “(A) reduce preventable causes of maternal
11 mortality and severe maternal morbidity;

12 “(B) reduce health disparities related to
13 maternal health outcomes, including such dis-
14 parities associated with populations with dis-
15 proportionately high rates of maternal mortality
16 and severe maternal morbidity relative to the
17 national rate; and

18 “(C) improve health for pregnant and
19 postpartum women before, during, and after
20 pregnancy;

21 “(2) use an integrated approach to understand
22 the factors, including biological, behavioral, and
23 other factors, that affect maternal mortality and se-
24 vere maternal morbidity by building an evidence
25 base for improved outcomes in specific regions of the
26 United States; and

1 “(3) target health disparities associated with
2 maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity
3 by—

4 “(A) implementing and evaluating commu-
5 nity-based interventions for disproportionately
6 affected women; and

7 “(B) identifying risk factors and the un-
8 derlying biological mechanisms associated with
9 leading causes of maternal mortality and severe
10 maternal morbidity in the United States.

11 “(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director of NIH may
12 award grants or enter into contracts, cooperative agree-
13 ments, or other transactions to carry out this section.

14 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$73,400,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031.”.

○