

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 7779

To amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program for the conduct and support of research, training, and health information dissemination with respect to environmental risk factors of neurodegenerative diseases, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2026

Mr. SUBRAMANYAM (for himself and Mr. BILIRAKIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a program for the conduct and support of research, training, and health information dissemination with respect to environmental risk factors of neurodegenerative 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 “Harmonizing Environ-  
5        mental Analyses and Launching Therapeutic Hubs to  
6        Yield Bolstered Research And Innovation in Neurological

1 Science Act of 2026” or the “HEALTHY BRAINS Act  
2 of 2026”.

3 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH INTO ENVIRONMENTAL RISK FACTORS**  
4 **THAT MAY CONTRIBUTE TO**  
5 **NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE.**

6 Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act  
7 (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
8 the following:

9 **“SEC. 409K. NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE ENVIRON-**  
10 **MENTAL RESEARCH.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
12 program for the conduct and support of research, training,  
13 and health information dissemination with respect to envi-  
14 ronmental risk factors (including environmental toxicant  
15 exposures) of neurodegenerative diseases.

16 “(b) SCOPE OF RESEARCH.—Research conducted or  
17 supported under this section shall—

18 “(1) be focused on—

19 “(A) potential environmental toxicants, in-  
20 cluding environmental stressors such as volatile  
21 organic compounds, particulate matter, per-  
22 and polyfluorinated substances, and heavy met-  
23 als in environmental media such as air, water,  
24 food, and soil;

1           “(B) the mechanistic interactions of such  
2 toxicants with neurodegenerative disease out-  
3 comes;

4           “(C) the presymptomatic markers of  
5 neurodegenerative disease; and

6           “(D) advancing development of environ-  
7 mental health strategies to prevent, manage,  
8 treat, or slow the progression of  
9 neurodegenerative disease; and

10          “(2) may include research—

11           “(A) examining environmental exposures,  
12 including occupational risk factors,  
13 sociobehavioral factors, and social determinants  
14 of health;

15           “(B) using fundamental approaches to  
16 identify historical, existing, and emerging envi-  
17 ronmental risks and factors that affect disease  
18 progression;

19           “(C) examining multifactorial causation  
20 from chemical and nonchemical exposures;

21           “(D) examining prevalence of the disease  
22 in relation to the distribution of exposures  
23 across communities and populations;

1           “(E) examining the expression of disease  
2           traits that result from the interplay of genes  
3           and environment; and

4           “(F) exploring physiological mechanisms  
5           driving neurodegeneration from toxicant expo-  
6           sures.

7           “(c) COORDINATION WITHIN HHS.—

8           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pro-  
9           gram under subsection (a), the Secretary shall—

10           “(A) provide for coordination across the  
11           programs and activities of the Department of  
12           Health and Human Services to avoid duplica-  
13           tion; and

14           “(B) expand the funding of environmental  
15           health research by leading an ongoing, coordi-  
16           nated, and focused effort to fund new and exist-  
17           ing centers for the study and evaluation of envi-  
18           ronmental risk factors (including environmental  
19           toxicants) of neurodegenerative diseases.

20           “(2) BIENNIAL REPORT.—In carrying out para-  
21           graph (1), the Secretary shall—

22           “(A) submit a biennial report detailing the  
23           findings and conclusions of research under this  
24           section to—

1 “(i) the Committees on Appropria-  
2 tions of the House of Representatives and  
3 the Senate;

4 “(ii) the Committee on Energy and  
5 Commerce of the House of Representa-  
6 tives; and

7 “(iii) the Committee on Health, Edu-  
8 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

9 “(B) post each report under subparagraph  
10 (A) on the public website of the Department of  
11 Health and Human Services; and

12 “(C) include the information reported pur-  
13 suant to subparagraph (A) in the triennial re-  
14 port under section 403.

15 “(d) COLLABORATIVE CENTERS FOR  
16 NEURODEGENERATIVE DISEASE ENVIRONMENTAL RE-  
17 SEARCH.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pro-  
19 gram under subsection (a), the Secretary shall pro-  
20 vide for the establishment of research centers, to be  
21 known as Collaborative Centers for  
22 Neurodegenerative Disease Environmental Research  
23 (in this section each referred to as a ‘Collaborative  
24 Center’) at institutions of higher education, medical  
25 centers, and other appropriate entities.

1           “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to  
2 neurodegenerative disease, each Collaborative Center  
3 shall—

4           “(A) conduct and support basic, applied,  
5 and clinical research on the effects of environ-  
6 mental risk factors (including environmental  
7 toxicants), including with respect to disease  
8 progression;

9           “(B) use the facilities of a single institu-  
10 tion or a consortium of cooperating institutions  
11 to administer the Collaborative Centers and  
12 meet such qualifications as may be prescribed  
13 by the Secretary;

14           “(C) be anchored in population-based, en-  
15 vironmental health research;

16           “(D) conduct interdisciplinary and collabo-  
17 rative research that spans basic, applied, popu-  
18 lation-based, or clinical research;

19           “(E) coordinate with existing intramural  
20 and extramural efforts of the Department of  
21 Health and Human Services; and

22           “(F) collaborate with relevant partners and  
23 stakeholders, including researchers, health pro-  
24 fessionals, nonprofit organizations, patients,  
25 and caregivers, to understand the effects of en-

1           environmental risk factors (including environ-  
2           mental toxicants) of neurodegenerative disease  
3           and progression thereof.

4           “(3) DISCRETIONARY ACTIVITIES.—With re-  
5           spect to neurodegenerative diseases, each Collabo-  
6           rative Center may—

7                   “(A) provide career enhancement and  
8                   training opportunities for scientists, research-  
9                   ers, environmental professionals, and health  
10                  professionals, including through the provision of  
11                  stipends;

12                  “(B) conduct programs to provide informa-  
13                  tion and continuing education to health profes-  
14                  sionals, including through the provision of sti-  
15                  pends;

16                  “(C) conduct programs for the dissemina-  
17                  tion of information to the public regarding re-  
18                  search findings and proposed prevention strate-  
19                  gies when appropriate;

20                  “(D) separately or in collaboration with  
21                  other Collaborative Centers or governmental  
22                  agencies, establish a nationwide data system  
23                  that—

24                          “(i) includes data derived from com-  
25                          prehensive and representative patient pop-

1           ulations with neurodegenerative diseases;  
2           and

3                   “(ii) where possible, compares rel-  
4           evant data involving general populations;

5                   “(E) separately or in collaboration with  
6           other Collaborative Centers, establish a clear-  
7           inghouse, to be known as the Environmental  
8           Contributions to Neurodegenerative Disease In-  
9           formation Clearinghouse, to facilitate and en-  
10          hance knowledge and understanding of environ-  
11          mental risk factors of neurodegenerative dis-  
12          eases; and

13                   “(F) separately or in collaboration with  
14          other Collaborative Centers, establish a national  
15          education program that fosters a national focus  
16          on environmental risk factors of  
17          neurodegenerative diseases.

18                   “(4) DURATION OF SUPPORT.—The period of  
19          support for a Collaborative Center under this section  
20          shall not exceed 5 years, except that such period  
21          may be extended by the Secretary for one or more  
22          additional periods of not more than 5 years if—

23                           “(A) the operations of such Collaborative  
24          Center have been reviewed by an appropriate

1 technical and scientific peer review group estab-  
2 lished by the Secretary; and

3 “(B) such group has recommended to the  
4 Secretary that such period should be extended.

5 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
6 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-  
7 priated \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through  
8 2031.”.

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