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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish a core public health infrastructure program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

M____. _____ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish a core public health infrastructure program, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. CORE PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE FOR**
2 **STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND TERRITORIAL**
3 **HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.**

4 (a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary of Health and Human
5 Services (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”), act-
6 ing through the Director of the Centers for Disease Con-
7 trol and Prevention, shall establish a core public health
8 infrastructure program consisting of awarding grants
9 under subsection (b).

10 (b) GRANTS.—

11 (1) AWARD.—For the purpose of addressing
12 core public health infrastructure needs, the Sec-
13 retary—

14 (A) shall award a grant to each State
15 health department; and

16 (B) may award grants on a competitive
17 basis to State, local, Tribal, or territorial health
18 departments.

19 (2) ALLOCATION.—Of the total amount of
20 funds awarded as grants under this subsection for a
21 fiscal year—

22 (A) not less than 50 percent shall be for
23 grants to State health departments under para-
24 graph (1)(A); and

1 (B) not less than 30 percent shall be for
2 grants to State, local, Tribal, or territorial
3 health departments under paragraph (1)(B).

4 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, local, Tribal, or terri-
5 torial health department receiving a grant under sub-
6 section (b) shall use the grant funds to address core public
7 health infrastructure needs, including those identified in
8 the accreditation process under subsection (g).

9 (d) FORMULA GRANTS TO STATE HEALTH DEPART-
10 MENTS.—In making grants under subsection (b)(1)(A),
11 the Secretary shall award funds to each State health de-
12 partment in accordance with—

13 (1) a formula based on population size, burden
14 of preventable disease and disability, and core public
15 health infrastructure gaps, including those identified
16 in the accreditation process under subsection (g);
17 and

18 (2) application requirements established by the
19 Secretary, including a requirement that the State
20 health department submit a plan that demonstrates
21 to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the State's
22 health department will—

23 (A) address its highest priority core public
24 health infrastructure needs; and

1 (B) as appropriate, allocate funds to local
2 health departments within the State.

3 (e) COMPETITIVE GRANTS TO STATE, LOCAL, TRIB-
4 AL, AND TERRITORIAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS.—In
5 making grants under subsection (b)(1)(B), the Secretary
6 shall give priority to applicants demonstrating core public
7 health infrastructure needs identified in the accreditation
8 process under subsection (g).

9 (f) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—The Secretary may
10 award a grant to an entity under subsection (b) only if
11 the entity demonstrates to the satisfaction of the Sec-
12 retary that—

13 (1) funds received through the grant will be ex-
14 pended only to supplement, and not supplant, non-
15 Federal and Federal funds otherwise available to the
16 entity for the purpose of addressing core public
17 health infrastructure needs; and

18 (2) with respect to activities for which the grant
19 is awarded, the entity will maintain expenditures of
20 non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level
21 not less than the level of such expenditures main-
22 tained by the entity for the fiscal year preceding the
23 fiscal year for which the entity receives the grant.

24 (g) ESTABLISHMENT OF A PUBLIC HEALTH ACCRED-
25 ITATION PROGRAM.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

2 (A) develop, and periodically review and
3 update, standards for voluntary accreditation of
4 State, local, Tribal, and territorial health de-
5 partments and public health laboratories for the
6 purpose of advancing the quality and perform-
7 ance of such departments and laboratories; and

8 (B) implement a program to accredit such
9 health departments and laboratories in accord-
10 ance with such standards.

11 (2) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT.—The Secretary
12 may enter into a cooperative agreement with a pri-
13 vate nonprofit entity to carry out paragraph (1).

14 (h) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Con-
15 gress an annual report on progress being made to accredit
16 entities under subsection (g), including—

17 (1) a strategy, including goals and objectives,
18 for accrediting entities under subsection (g) and
19 achieving the purpose described in subsection
20 (g)(1)(A);

21 (2) identification of gaps in research related to
22 core public health infrastructure; and

23 (3) recommendations of priority areas for such
24 research.

1 (i) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “core pub-
2 lic health infrastructure” includes—

3 (1) workforce capacity and competency;

4 (2) laboratory systems;

5 (3) testing capacity, including test platforms,
6 mobile testing units, and personnel;

7 (4) health information, health information sys-
8 tems, and health information analysis;

9 (5) disease surveillance;

10 (6) contact tracing;

11 (7) communications;

12 (8) financing;

13 (9) other relevant components of organizational
14 capacity; and

15 (10) other related activities.

16 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
17 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
18 \$6,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022
19 through 2026.

20 **SEC. 2. CORE PUBLIC HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND AC-**
21 **TIVITIES FOR CDC.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
23 Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
24 tion, shall expand and improve the core public health in-
25 frastructure and activities of the Centers for Disease Con-

1 trol and Prevention to address unmet and emerging public
2 health needs.

3 (b) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Con-
4 gress an annual report on the activities funded through
5 this section.

6 (c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “core
7 public health infrastructure” has the meaning given to
8 such term in section 1.

9 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
10 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
11 \$1,000,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022
12 through 2026.