

109TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5906

To establish a Consortium on the Impact of Technology in Aging Health Services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2006

Mr. RAMSTAD (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a Consortium on the Impact of Technology in Aging Health Services.

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 “Consortium on the Im-
5 pact of Technology in Aging Health Services Act of
6 2006”.

7 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF CONSORTIUM.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a Con-
9 sortium to be known as the “Consortium on the Impact

1 of Technology in Aging Health Services” (referred to in
2 this Act as the “Consortium”).

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the Consortium is to
4 evaluate the potential of new technologies to help the
5 United States prepare for the unprecedented demographic
6 changes that will occur during the next 10 years in the
7 Nation’s healthcare system.

8 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

9 (1) COMPOSITION.—The Consortium shall be
10 composed of 17 members, of whom—

11 (A) 1 member shall be appointed by the
12 President and designated by the President as
13 Chairperson of the Consortium;

14 (B) 4 members shall be appointed by the
15 majority leader of the Senate;

16 (C) 4 members shall be appointed by the
17 minority leader of the Senate;

18 (D) 4 members shall be appointed by the
19 Speaker of the House of Representatives; and

20 (E) 4 members shall be appointed by the
21 minority leader of the House of Representa-
22 tives.

23 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—

24 (A) IN GENERAL.—Appointments to the
25 Consortium shall be made from individuals who

1 are senior-level executives from the Federal
2 Government or the private-sector who have
3 demonstrated experience as—

4 (i) providers of senior, geriatric, and
5 other assistive services, including housing,
6 nursing care, home-and-community based
7 services, and assisted living and caregiver
8 organizations;

9 (ii) technology developers or producers
10 of products for aged individuals;

11 (iii) Federal, State, or academic re-
12 searchers that focus on aging issues;

13 (iv) physicians and other health care
14 providers;

15 (v) insurers and other payer organiza-
16 tions; and

17 (vi) representatives of the pharma-
18 ceutical industry.

19 (B) INCLUSION OF SENIORS AND INDIVID-
20 UALS WITH DISABILITIES.—At least 2 ap-
21 pointees shall be—

22 (i) age 65 or older; or

23 (ii) an individual with a disability.

24 (3) DATE OF APPOINTMENTS.—The appoint-
25 ment of a member of the Consortium shall be made

1 not later than 30 days after the date of enactment
2 of this Act.

3 (d) TERM; VACANCIES.—

4 (1) TERM.—A member shall be appointed for
5 the life of the Consortium.

6 (2) VACANCIES.—A vacancy on the Consor-
7 tium—

8 (A) shall not affect the powers of the Con-
9 sortium; and

10 (B) shall be filled, not later than 30 days
11 after the Consortium is given notice of the va-
12 cancy, in the same manner as the original ap-
13 pointment was made.

14 (e) INITIAL MEETING.—Not later than 30 days after
15 the date on which all members of the Consortium have
16 been appointed, the Consortium shall hold the initial meet-
17 ing of the Consortium.

18 (f) MEETINGS.—The Consortium shall meet at the
19 call of the Chairperson.

20 (g) QUORUM.—A majority of the members of the
21 Consortium shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser num-
22 ber of members may hold hearings.

23 **SEC. 3. DUTIES.**

24 (a) STUDY.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Consortium shall con-
2 duct a study of all matters relating to the potential
3 use of new technology to assist older adults and
4 their caregivers throughout the aging process.

5 (2) MATTERS TO BE STUDIED.—The matters to
6 be studied by the Consortium shall include—

7 (A) methods for identifying technology that
8 can be adapted to meet the needs of seniors, in-
9 dividuals with disabilities, and the caregivers of
10 such seniors and individuals across all aging
11 services settings;

12 (B) methods for fostering scientific innova-
13 tion with respect to aging services technology
14 within the business and academic communities;

15 (C) strategies for addressing issues, such
16 as liability, reimbursement, and privacy and se-
17 curity concerns, with respect to innovation in
18 aging services technology;

19 (D) developments in aging services tech-
20 nology in other countries that may be applied in
21 the United States; and

22 (E) methods for ensuring that businesses
23 in the United States have a leadership role in
24 the rapidly expanding global market of aging
25 services technology.

1 (b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Consortium shall de-
2 velop recommendations with respect to the following:

3 (1) Identification of developments in current
4 aging services technologies that may result in in-
5 creased efficiency and cost savings to the healthcare
6 system.

7 (2) Specifications for Federal funding of on-
8 going research and development by businesses and
9 academia to accelerate the development of aging
10 services technology in order to—

11 (A) promote the independence of seniors
12 and individuals with disabilities;

13 (B) facilitate early disease detection;

14 (C) delay the physical, cognitive, social,
15 and emotional decline resulting from disease
16 and the aging process;

17 (D) support wellness activities and preven-
18 tive behaviors;

19 (E) promote greater support to
20 community- and facility-based caregivers;

21 (F) develop systems that improve the qual-
22 ity control and efficiency of facility-based care,
23 such as pharmacy distribution programs and
24 secure electronic clinical records;

1 (G) provide automation that reduces the
2 amount of caregiver paperwork;

3 (H) minimize caregiver burnout; and

4 (I) reduce medication errors and improve
5 overall compliance.

6 (3) Identification of methods to ensure that
7 necessary technology infrastructure is in place to de-
8 liver aging services to rural and urban areas.

9 (4) Whether to establish—

10 (A) a permanent Federal interagency task
11 force that will facilitate the development and
12 distribution of aging services technology; and

13 (B) a National Resource Center that would
14 stimulate research, oversee demonstration
15 projects, and provide training and technical as-
16 sistance to Federal, State, and private sector
17 organizations and entities that provide aging
18 services.

19 (5) Assignment of responsibilities for aging
20 services with respect to jurisdiction, funding, and re-
21 porting relationships.

22 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 24 months after the
23 date of enactment of this Act, the Consortium shall submit
24 to the President and the appropriate committees of Con-

1 gress a report that contains the recommendations of the
2 Consortium with respect to the following:

3 (1) DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL POLICY.—The
4 development of a national policy to address issues
5 with respect to technology and assistive health serv-
6 ices for seniors, including the appropriate roles and
7 responsibilities for the Federal Government, State
8 and local governments, and the private sector.

9 (2) LEGISLATIVE AND PROGRAM CHANGES.—
10 The specific legislative and regulatory changes with
11 respect to Federal laws and programs that would
12 support and encourage the private sector to develop
13 and make widely available consumer-empowered
14 technology solutions.

15 (3) ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL RESOURCE
16 CENTER.—The establishment of a National Resource
17 Center on Aging Services Technologies to offer
18 training and assistance to the Federal Government,
19 State and local governments, and the private sector
20 in the application of technology in pilots and trials
21 with respect to assistive health services for seniors.

22 **SEC. 4. POWERS.**

23 (a) HEARINGS.—The Consortium may hold such
24 hearings, meet and act at such times and places, take such

1 testimony, and receive such evidence as the Consortium
2 considers advisable to carry out this Act.

3 (b) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Consortium may secure
5 directly from a Federal agency such information as
6 the Consortium considers necessary to carry out this
7 Act.

8 (2) PROVISION OF INFORMATION.—Except as
9 otherwise provided by law, on request of the Chair-
10 person of the Consortium, the head of the agency
11 shall provide the information to the Consortium.

12 (c) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Consortium may use
13 the United States mails in the same manner and under
14 the same conditions as other agencies of the Federal Gov-
15 ernment.

16 (d) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Consortium may
17 contract with and compensate government and private
18 agencies or persons for services, without regard to section
19 3709 of the Revised Statutes (41 U.S.C. 5).

20 (e) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
21 ber or agent of the Consortium may, if authorized by the
22 Consortium, take any action which the Consortium is au-
23 thorized to take by this section.

24 (f) GIFTS.—The Consortium may accept, use, and
25 dispose of gifts or donations of services or property.

1 (g) PRINTING.—For purposes of costs relating to
2 printing and binding, including the costs of personnel de-
3 tailed from the Government Printing Office, the Consor-
4 tium shall be deemed to be a committee of Congress.

5 **SEC. 5. CONSORTIUM PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

6 (a) COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.—Members of the
7 Consortium shall receive no additional pay, allowances, or
8 benefits by reason of their service on the Consortium.

9 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Consor-
10 tium shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem
11 in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee
12 of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title
13 5, United States Code, while away from the home or reg-
14 ular place of business of the member in the performance
15 of the duties of the Consortium.

16 (c) STAFF.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Con-
18 sortium may, without regard to the civil service laws
19 (including regulations), appoint and terminate an ex-
20 ecutive director and such other additional personnel
21 as are necessary to enable the Consortium to per-
22 form the duties of the Consortium.

23 (2) COMPENSATION.—

24 (A) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.—The executive
25 director shall be paid the rate of basic pay for

1 level V of the Executive Schedule under section
2 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

3 (B) OTHER STAFF.—The staff shall be ap-
4 pointed subject to the provisions of title 5,
5 United States Code, government appointments
6 in the competitive service, and shall be paid in
7 accordance with the provisions of chapter 51
8 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title
9 relating to classification and General Schedule
10 pay rates.

11 (d) DETAIL OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOY-
12 EES.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—An employee of the Federal
14 Government may be detailed to the Consortium
15 without reimbursement.

16 (2) CIVIL SERVICE STATUS.—The detail of the
17 employee shall be without interruption or loss of civil
18 service status or privilege.

19 (e) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-
20 TENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Consortium
21 may procure temporary and intermittent services in ac-
22 cordance with section 3109(b) of title 5, United States
23 Code, at rates for individuals that do not exceed the daily
24 equivalent of the maximum annual rate of basic pay pay-
25 able for the General Schedule.

1 (f) PHYSICAL FACILITIES.—The Administrator of the
2 General Services Administration shall locate suitable office
3 space for the operation of the Consortium. The facilities
4 shall serve as the headquarters of the Consortium and
5 shall include all necessary equipment and incidentals re-
6 quired for the proper functioning of the Consortium.

7 **SEC. 6. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
9 this Act \$1,500,000, for the period of fiscal years 2007
10 through 2010, to remain available until expended.

11 **SEC. 7. TERMINATION OF CONSORTIUM.**

12 The Consortium shall terminate 180 days after the
13 date on which the Consortium submits the report required
14 under section 3(c).

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