

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6568

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to encourage research and carry out an educational campaign with respect to pulmonary hypertension, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2008

Mr. BRADY of Texas (for himself and Mrs. CAPPS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to encourage research and carry out an educational campaign with respect to pulmonary hypertension, 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 “Tom Lantos Pul-
5 monary Hypertension Research and Education Act of
6 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

2 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title.

Sec. 2. Table of contents.

TITLE I—RESEARCH ON PULMONARY HYPERTENSION

Sec. 101. Expansion and intensification of activities.

TITLE II—INCREASING AWARENESS OF PULMONARY
HYPERTENSION

Sec. 201. Promoting public awareness.

Sec. 202. Promoting awareness among health care professionals.

TITLE III—GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY OFFICE STUDY

Sec. 301. Study on Medicare and Medicaid coverage standards for pulmonary hypertension therapies.

3 **TITLE I—RESEARCH ON**
4 **PULMONARY HYPERTENSION**

5 **SEC. 101. EXPANSION AND INTENSIFICATION OF ACTIVI-**
6 **TIES.**

7 (a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Con-
8 gress that—

9 (1) the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
10 ices (in this Act referred to as the “Secretary”), act-
11 ing through the Director of the National Institutes
12 of Health and the Director of the National Heart,
13 Lung, and Blood Institute (in this title referred to
14 as the “Institute”), should continue aggressive work
15 on pulmonary hypertension;

16 (2) as part of such work, the Director of the In-
17 stitute should continue research to expand the un-

1 derstanding of the causes of, and to find a cure for,
2 pulmonary hypertension; and

3 (3) activities under paragraph (1) may include
4 conducting and supporting—

5 (A) basic research concerning the etiology
6 and causes of pulmonary hypertension;

7 (B) basic research on the relationship be-
8 tween scleroderma, sickle cell anemia (and other
9 conditions identified by the Director of the In-
10 stitute that can lead to a secondary diagnosis of
11 pulmonary hypertension), and pulmonary hy-
12 pertension;

13 (C) clinical research for the development
14 and evaluation of new treatments for pul-
15 monary hypertension, including the establish-
16 ment of a “Pulmonary Hypertension Clinical
17 Research Network”;

18 (D) support for the training of new clini-
19 cians and investigators with expertise in the
20 pulmonary hypertension; and

21 (E) information and education programs
22 for the general public.

23 (b) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—As part of the biennial re-
24 port made under section 403 of the Public Health Service
25 Act (42 U.S.C. 283), the Secretary shall include informa-

1 tion on the status of pulmonary hypertension research at
2 the National Institutes of Health.

3 **TITLE II—INCREASING AWARE-**
4 **NESS OF PULMONARY HYPER-**
5 **TENSION**

6 **SEC. 201. PROMOTING PUBLIC AWARENESS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
8 Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
9 tion, shall carry out an educational campaign to increase
10 public awareness of pulmonary hypertension. Print, video,
11 and Web-based materials distributed under this program
12 may include—

13 (1) basic information on pulmonary hyper-
14 tension and its symptoms; and

15 (2) information on—

16 (A) the incidence and prevalence of pul-
17 monary hypertension;

18 (B) diseases and conditions that can lead
19 to pulmonary hypertension as a secondary diag-
20 nosis;

21 (C) the importance of early diagnosis; and

22 (D) the availability, as medically appro-
23 priate, of a range of treatment options and pul-
24 monary hypertension.

1 (b) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
2 retary is encouraged to disseminate information under
3 subsection (a) through a cooperative agreement with a na-
4 tional nonprofit entity with expertise in pulmonary hyper-
5 tension.

6 (c) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than Sep-
7 tember 30, 2009, the Secretary shall report to the Com-
8 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
10 and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Appro-
11 priations of the House of Representatives and the Senate
12 on the status of activities under this section.

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
14 purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized
15 to be appropriated \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years
16 2009, 2010, and 2011.

17 **SEC. 202. PROMOTING AWARENESS AMONG HEALTH CARE**
18 **PROFESSIONALS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
20 Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Ad-
21 ministration and the Director of the Centers for Disease
22 Control and Prevention, shall carry out an educational
23 campaign to increase awareness of pulmonary hyper-
24 tension among health care providers. Print, video, and

1 Web-based materials distributed under this program may
2 include information on—

- 3 (1) the symptoms of pulmonary hypertension;
- 4 (2) the importance of early diagnosis;
- 5 (3) current diagnostic criteria; and
- 6 (4) Food and Drug Administration-approved
7 therapies for the disease.

8 (b) TARGETED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.—Health
9 care providers targeted through the campaign under sub-
10 section (a) shall include, but not be limited to, cardiolo-
11 gists, pulmonologists, rheumatologists, primary care phy-
12 sicians, pediatricians, and nurse practitioners

13 (c) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
14 retary is encouraged to disseminate information under
15 subsection (a) through a cooperative agreement with a na-
16 tional nonprofit entity with expertise in pulmonary hyper-
17 tension.

18 (d) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than Sep-
19 tember 30, 2009, the Secretary shall report to the Com-
20 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
21 resentatives, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
22 and Pensions of the Senate, and the Committee on Appro-
23 priations of the House of Representatives and the Senate
24 on the status of activities under this section.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
2 purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized
3 to be appropriated \$2,500,000 for each of fiscal years
4 2009, 2010, and 2011.

5 **TITLE III—GOVERNMENT AC-**
6 **COUNTABILITY OFFICE**
7 **STUDY**

8 **SEC. 301. STUDY ON MEDICARE AND MEDICAID COVERAGE**
9 **STANDARDS FOR PULMONARY HYPER-**
10 **TENSION THERAPIES.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
12 United States shall conduct a study on the coverage stand-
13 ards that, under the programs under titles XVIII and XIX
14 of the Social Security Act (commonly known as Medicare
15 and Medicaid, respectively), apply to patients with pul-
16 monary hypertension. The study shall detail Medicare and
17 Medicaid coverage standards for all therapies approved by
18 the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of
19 pulmonary hypertension.

20 (b) CONTENT.—The study under subsection (a) shall
21 take into account the appropriate outpatient or home
22 health care delivery settings.

23 (c) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2009,
24 the Comptroller General shall submit to the Congress a

- 1 report describing the findings of the study under sub-
- 2 section (a).

○