H. R. 2557

To provide for the establishment of the Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 15, 2011

Mr. Smith of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. Wolf, Mr. Holden, and Mr. Gibson) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Tick-Borne Diseases Advisory Committee.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. ESTABLISHMENT OF A TICK-BORNE DISEASES ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) Establishment.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall establish within the Office of the Secretary an advisory committee to be known as the Tick-
Borne Diseases Advisory Committee (referred to in this section as the “Committee”).

(b) DUTIES.—The Committee shall advise the Secretary and the Assistant Secretary for Health regarding the manner in which such officials can—

(1) ensure interagency coordination and communication and minimize overlap regarding efforts to address tick-borne diseases;

(2) identify opportunities to coordinate efforts with other Federal agencies and private organizations addressing such diseases;

(3) ensure interagency coordination and communication with constituency groups;

(4) ensure that a broad spectrum of scientific viewpoints is represented in public health policy decisions and that information disseminated to the public and physicians is balanced; and

(5) advise relevant Federal agencies on priorities related to the Lyme and tick-borne diseases.

c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall appoint the voting members of the Committee from among individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government.
(B) GROUPS.—The voting members of the Committee shall include the following:

(i) At least 4 members from the scientific community representing the broad spectrum of viewpoints held within the scientific community related to Lyme and other tick-borne diseases.

(ii) At least 2 representatives of tick-borne disease voluntary organizations.

(iii) At least 2 health care providers, including at least 1 full-time practicing physician, with relevant experience providing care for individuals with a broad range of acute and chronic tick-borne diseases.

(iv) At least 2 patient representatives who are individuals who have been diagnosed with a tick-borne disease or who have had an immediate family member diagnosed with such a disease.

(v) At least 2 representatives of State and local health departments and national organizations that represent State and local health professionals.
(C) DIVERSITY.—In appointing members under this paragraph, the Secretary shall ensure that such members, as a group, represent a diversity of scientific perspectives relevant to the duties of the Committee.

(2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall designate, as nonvoting, ex officio members of the Committee, representatives overseeing tick-borne disease activities from each of the following Federal agencies:

(A) The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

(B) The National Institutes of Health.

(C) The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality.

(D) The Food and Drug Administration.

(E) The Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health.

(F) Such additional Federal agencies as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

(3) CO-CHAIRPERSONS.—The Secretary shall designate the Assistant Secretary for Health as the co-chairperson of the Committee. The appointed members of the Committee shall also elect a public
co-chairperson. The public co-chairperson shall serve
a 2-year term.

(4) TERM OF APPOINTMENT.—The term of
service for each member of the Committee appointed
under paragraph (1) shall be 4 years.

(5) VACANCY.—A vacancy in the membership of
the Committee shall be filled in the same manner as
the original appointment. Any member appointed to
fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall be ap-
pointed for the remainder of that term. Members
may serve after the expiration of their terms until
their successors have taken office.

(d) MEETINGS.—The Committee shall hold public
meetings, except as otherwise determined by the Sec-
retary, after providing notice to the public of such meet-
ings, and shall meet at least twice a year with additional
meetings subject to the call of the co-chairpersons. Agenda
items with respect to such meetings may be added at the
request of the members of the Committee, including the
c o-chairpersons. Meetings shall be conducted, and records
of the proceedings shall be maintained, as required by ap-
licable law and by regulations of the Secretary.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the
Committee, through the Director of the Centers for Dis-
ease Control and Prevention and the Director of the Na-
tional Institutes of Health, shall submit a report to the
Secretary. Each such report shall contain, at a min-
imum—

(1) a description of the Committee’s functions;

(2) a list of the Committee’s members and their
affiliations; and

(3) a summary of the Committee’s activities
and recommendations during the previous year, in-
cluding any significant issues regarding the func-
tioning of the Committee.

(f) Authorization of Appropriations.—Of the
amounts made available to the Department of Health and
Human Services for general departmental management
for fiscal years 2012 through 2016, there is authorized
to be appropriated $250,000 for each of such fiscal years
to carry out this Act. Amounts made available to carry
out this Act shall be used for the expenses and per diem
costs incurred by the Committee under this section in ac-
cordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act, except
that no voting member of the Committee shall be a perma-
nent salaried employee.