

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6207

To provide for the establishment of the Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2012

Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. CHU) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of the Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks to Children.

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 “Children’s Health Task
5 Force Act of 2012”.

6 **SEC. 2. TASK FORCE ON ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH RISKS**
7 **AND SAFETY RISKS TO CHILDREN.**

8 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services and the Administrator of the Environ-
10 mental Protection Agency, acting jointly, shall establish

1 and maintain a permanent task force, to be known as the
2 Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety
3 Risks to Children (in this Act referred to as the “Task
4 Force”).

5 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall be com-
6 posed of the following officials (or their designees):

7 (1) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
8 ices, who shall serve as a Co-Chair of the Task
9 Force.

10 (2) The Administrator of the Environmental
11 Protection Agency, who shall serve as a Co-Chair of
12 the Task Force.

13 (3) The Secretary of Education.

14 (4) The Secretary of Labor.

15 (5) The Attorney General of the United States.

16 (6) The Secretary of Energy.

17 (7) The Secretary of Housing and Urban Devel-
18 opment.

19 (8) The Secretary of Agriculture.

20 (9) The Secretary of Transportation.

21 (10) The Secretary of Defense.

22 (11) The Secretary of the Interior.

23 (12) The Director of the Office of Management
24 and Budget.

1 (13) The Chair of the Council on Environ-
2 mental Quality.

3 (14) The Chair of the Consumer Product Safe-
4 ty Commission.

5 (15) Such other officials of Federal depart-
6 ments and agencies as the Secretary of Health and
7 Human Services and the Administrator of the Envi-
8 ronmental Protection Agency, acting jointly, may
9 designate or invite (as appropriate) to serve on the
10 Task Force.

11 (c) STAKEHOLDERS.—The Secretary of Health and
12 Human Services and the Administrator of the Environ-
13 mental Protection Agency, acting jointly, shall, as appro-
14 priate, invite representatives of stakeholders to attend
15 meetings of the Task Force, appear before the Task
16 Force, and file statements with the Task Force, subject
17 to such requirements as the Secretary and Administrator
18 may determine.

19 (d) FUNCTIONS.—The Task Force shall recommend
20 to the President and the Congress Federal strategies for
21 addressing environmental health risks and safety risks to
22 children in the United States, within projected budgetary
23 limits, including the following:

24 (1) Adoption of action plans, including
25 multiyear and annual priorities, to address the prin-

1 ciproal environmental health risks and safety risks to
2 children.

3 (2) Initiatives that the Federal Government has
4 undertaken or will undertake in addressing the prin-
5 cipal environmental health risks and safety risks to
6 children.

7 (3) Recommendations on how to improve cross-
8 agency implementation of actions, including cross-
9 agency budgeting, to address environmental health
10 risks and safety risks to children.

11 (4) Recommendations for a coordinated re-
12 search agenda for the Federal Government to ad-
13 dress environmental health risks and safety risks to
14 children.

15 (5) Recommendations for appropriate partner-
16 ships among Federal, State, local, and tribal govern-
17 ments and the private, academic, and nonprofit sec-
18 tors.

19 (6) Proposed ways to enhance public outreach
20 and communication to assist families in evaluating
21 environmental health risks and safety risks to chil-
22 dren and in making informed consumer choices.

23 (7) Proposed ways to strengthen the data sys-
24 tem in order to identify and track development of
25 rulemakings and other actions to ensure they comply

1 with current policy on evaluating environmental
2 health risks and safety risks to children.

3 (e) REPORTS.—

4 (1) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than July
5 31, 2013, and biennially thereafter, the Task Force
6 shall submit to the President and the Congress,
7 make publicly available, and disseminate widely a re-
8 port including—

9 (A) the strategies developed and updated
10 under subsection (d);

11 (B) in the case of reports subsequent to
12 the first report, a description of the accomplish-
13 ments of the Task Force since the preceding re-
14 port;

15 (C) current national priorities for address-
16 ing environmental health risks and safety risks
17 to children in the United States and any related
18 emerging issues;

19 (D) updates on Federal research findings
20 and research needs regarding environmental
21 risks and safety risks to children;

22 (E) information submitted to the Task
23 Force by Federal departments and agencies for
24 inclusion in the report;

1 (F) appropriate recommendations by the
2 Children’s Health Protection Advisory Com-
3 mittee; and

4 (G) information submitted by stakeholders
5 for inclusion in the report.

6 (2) ADDITIONAL REPORTING.—In addition to
7 the biennial reports under paragraph (1), the Task
8 Force—

9 (A) may, as appropriate, submit to the
10 President and the Congress such additional re-
11 ports and updates as necessary;

12 (B) shall make any such reports and up-
13 dates publicly available; and

14 (C) shall disseminate widely any such re-
15 ports and updates.

16 (f) MEETINGS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall meet
18 at least annually.

19 (2) NOTICE.—The Task Force shall—

20 (A) publish in the Federal Register timely
21 notice of each upcoming meeting of the Task
22 Force; and

23 (B) provide for other types of public notice
24 to ensure that all interested persons receive

1 timely notice of each upcoming meeting of the
2 Task Force.

3 (3) MINUTES.—

4 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall
5 record and maintain detailed minutes of each
6 meeting of the Task Force, including—

7 (i) the meeting agenda;

8 (ii) a record of the persons present;

9 (iii) a complete and accurate descrip-
10 tion of matters discussed at the meeting
11 and conclusions reached; and

12 (iv) copies of all reports received,
13 issued, or approved by the Task Force in
14 connection with the meeting.

15 (B) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY; COPYING.—The
16 Task Force shall make such minutes available
17 for public inspection and copying.

18 (C) ACCURACY.—The Co-Chairs of the
19 Task Force shall certify the accuracy of all such
20 minutes.

21 (g) TERMINATION OF EXISTING TASK FORCE.—The
22 Task Force on Environmental Health Risks and Safety
23 Risks to Children established by Executive Order 13045
24 (April 21, 1997) is hereby terminated.

1 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
2 out this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated such
3 sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2013 and each
4 subsequent fiscal year.

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