

113TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4216

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to provide grants to States to establish State maternal mortality review committees on pregnancy-related deaths occurring within such States; to develop definitions of severe maternal morbidity and data collection protocols; and to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2014

Mr. CONYERS (for himself and Ms. DEGETTE) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title V of the Social Security Act to provide grants to States to establish State maternal mortality review committees on pregnancy-related deaths occurring within such States; to develop definitions of severe maternal morbidity and data collection protocols; and to eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes.

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 “Maternal Health Ac-
5 countability Act of 2014”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The aggregate pregnancy-related mortality
4 ratio in the United States as measured by the Cen-
5 ters for Disease Control and Prevention Pregnancy
6 Mortality Surveillance System was 14.5 for the 8-
7 year period 1998 through 2005, higher than any
8 other period in the previous 20 years. Although this
9 increase may reflect changes in data collection meth-
10 ods by the States, this reported increase, along with
11 no improvement in previous years remains a source
12 of great concern for the Centers for Disease Control
13 and Prevention, and registered nurses, health care
14 providers, and patient advocates such as the Joint
15 Commission, the American College of Obstetricians
16 and Gynecologists, and Amnesty International.

17 (2) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
18 vention has found that maternal deaths should be
19 investigated through State-based maternal death re-
20 views and maternal quality collaboratives, as these
21 entities are well-situated to identify deaths, review
22 the factors associated with them, and take action
23 with the findings in order to institute the systemic
24 changes needed to decrease pregnancy-related and
25 pregnancy-associated mortality.

1 (3) Women of color and low-income women face
2 added risks in terms of death, complications, and ac-
3 cess to quality health care. African-American women
4 are three to four times more likely to die of preg-
5 nancy-related complications than White women. In
6 2006 the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-
7 tion reported that the maternal mortality ratio for
8 non-Hispanic White women was 9.1 deaths per
9 100,000 births compared with 34.8 deaths per
10 100,000 births for non-Hispanic Black women.
11 These rates and disparities have not improved in
12 more than 20 years.

13 (4) Healthy People 2010, a comprehensive, na-
14 tionwide health promotion and disease prevention
15 agenda launched by the Department of Health and
16 Human Services, set a target goal of reducing ma-
17 ternal mortality in the United States to 4.3 deaths
18 per 100,000 live births by 2010. In 2007, the na-
19 tional maternal mortality ratio was 12.7 deaths per
20 100,000 live births.

21 (5) Severe complications that result in women
22 nearly dying, known as a “near miss” or severe ma-
23 ternal morbidity has increased by 75 percent for de-
24 livery (based on data comparing 1998 through 1999)
25 and 114 percent for postpartum hospitalizations

1 (based on data comparing 2008 through 2009).
2 Such data also estimates that severe morbidity af-
3 fects 52,000 women a year and is expected to con-
4 tinue to increase. Moreover, there is no scientific
5 consensus on uniform definitions of severe maternal
6 morbidity and best practices for data collection,
7 making it difficult to measure the full extent of se-
8 vere morbidity and developing evidence-based inter-
9 ventions.

10 (b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are the fol-
11 lowing:

12 (1) To establish governmental accountability
13 and a shared responsibility between States and the
14 Federal Government to identify opportunities for im-
15 provement in quality of care and system changes,
16 and to educate and inform health institutions and
17 professionals, women, and families about preventing
18 pregnancy-related deaths and complications and re-
19 ducing disparities.

20 (2) To develop a model for States to operate
21 maternal mortality reviews and assess the various
22 factors that may have contributed to maternal mor-
23 tality, including quality of care, racial disparities,
24 and systemic problems in the delivery of health care,

1 and to develop appropriate interventions to reduce
2 and prevent such deaths.

3 **SEC. 3. UNIFORM STATE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW**
4 **COMMITTEES ON PREGNANCY-RELATED**
5 **DEATHS.**

6 (a) CONDITION OF RECEIPT OF PAYMENTS FROM
7 ALLOTMENT UNDER MATERNAL AND CHILD HEALTH
8 SERVICE BLOCK GRANT.—Title V of the Social Security
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 701 et seq.) is amended by adding at the
10 end the following new section:

11 **“SEC. 514. UNIFORM STATE MATERNAL MORTALITY RE-**
12 **VIEW COMMITTEES ON PREGNANCY-RE-**
13 **LATED DEATHS.**

14 “(a) GRANTS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other
16 provision of this title, for each of fiscal years 2015
17 through 2021, in addition to payments from allot-
18 ments for States under section 502 for such year,
19 the Secretary shall, subject to paragraph (3) and in
20 accordance with the criteria established under para-
21 graph (2), award grants to States to—

22 “(A) carry out the activities described in
23 subsection (b)(1);

24 “(B) establish a State maternal mortality
25 review committee, in accordance with subsection

1 (b)(2), to carry out the activities described in
2 subsection (b)(2)(A), and to establish the pro-
3 cesses described in subsection (b)(1);

4 “(C) ensure the State department of
5 health carries out the applicable activities de-
6 scribed in subsection (b)(3), with respect to
7 pregnancy-related deaths occurring within the
8 State during such fiscal year;

9 “(D) implement and use the comprehensive
10 case abstraction form developed under sub-
11 section (c), in accordance with such subsection;

12 “(E) provide for public disclosure of infor-
13 mation, in accordance with subsection (e); and

14 “(F) collect, analyze, and report to the
15 Secretary cases of maternal morbidity, includ-
16 ing reports of maternal morbidity data on ad-
17 missions to an intensive care unit or the trans-
18 fusion of more than three units of blood prod-
19 ucts.

20 “(2) CRITERIA.—The Secretary shall establish
21 criteria for determining eligibility for and the
22 amount of a grant awarded to a State under para-
23 graph (1). Such criteria shall provide that in the
24 case of a State that receives such a grant for a fiscal
25 year and is determined by the Secretary to have not

1 used such grant in accordance with this section,
2 such State shall not be eligible for such a grant for
3 any subsequent fiscal year.

4 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
5 For purposes of carrying out the grant program
6 under this section, including for administrative pur-
7 poses, there is authorized to be appropriated
8 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2015 through
9 2021.

10 “(b) PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATH REVIEW.—

11 “(1) REVIEW OF PREGNANCY-RELATED DEATH
12 AND PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED DEATH CASES.—For
13 purposes of subsection (a), with respect to a State
14 that receives a grant under subsection (a), the fol-
15 lowing shall apply:

16 “(A) MANDATORY REPORTING OF PREG-
17 NANCY-RELATED DEATHS.—

18 “(i) IN GENERAL.—The State shall,
19 through the State maternal mortality re-
20 view committee, develop a process, sepa-
21 rate from any reporting process established
22 by the State department of health prior to
23 the date of the enactment of this section,
24 that provides for mandatory and confiden-
25 tial case reporting by individuals and enti-

1 ties described in clause (ii) of pregnancy-
2 related deaths to the State department of
3 health.

4 “(ii) INDIVIDUALS AND ENTITIES DE-
5 SCRIBED.—Individuals and entities de-
6 scribed in this clause include each of the
7 following:

8 “(I) Health care providers.

9 “(II) Medical examiners.

10 “(III) Medical coroners.

11 “(IV) Hospitals.

12 “(V) Free-standing birth centers.

13 “(VI) Other health care facilities.

14 “(VII) Any other individuals re-
15 sponsible for completing death certifi-
16 cates.

17 “(VIII) Any other appropriate in-
18 dividuals or entities specified by the
19 Secretary.

20 “(B) VOLUNTARY REPORTING OF PREG-
21 NANCY-RELATED AND PREGNANCY-ASSOCIATED
22 DEATHS.—

23 “(i) The State shall, through the
24 State maternal mortality review committee,
25 develop a process for and encourage, sepa-

1 rate from any reporting process established
2 by the State department of health prior to
3 the date of the enactment of this section,
4 voluntary and confidential case reporting
5 by individuals described in clause (ii) of
6 pregnancy-associated deaths to the State
7 department of health.

8 “(ii) The State shall, through the
9 State maternal mortality review committee,
10 develop a process for voluntary and con-
11 fidential reporting by family members of
12 the deceased and by other individuals on
13 possible pregnancy-related and pregnancy-
14 associated deaths to the State department
15 of health. Such process shall include—

16 “(I) making publicly available on
17 the Internet Web site of the State de-
18 partment of health a telephone num-
19 ber, Internet Web link, and email ad-
20 dress for such reporting; and

21 “(II) publicizing to local profes-
22 sional organizations, community orga-
23 nizations, and social services agencies
24 the availability of the telephone num-
25 ber, Internet Web link, and email ad-

1 dress made available under subclause
2 (I).

3 “(C) DEVELOPMENT OF CASE-FINDING.—
4 The State, through the vital statistics unit of
5 the State, shall annually identify pregnancy-re-
6 lated and pregnancy-associated deaths occur-
7 ring in such State during the year involved
8 by—

9 “(i) matching all death records, with
10 respect to such year, for women of child-
11 bearing age to live birth certificates and in-
12 fant death certificates to identify deaths of
13 women that occurred during pregnancy
14 and within one year after the end of a
15 pregnancy;

16 “(ii) identifying deaths reported dur-
17 ing such year as having an underlying or
18 contributing cause of death related to
19 pregnancy, regardless of the time that has
20 passed between the end of the pregnancy
21 and the death;

22 “(iii) collecting data from medical ex-
23 aminer and coroner reports; and

24 “(iv) any other methods the States
25 may devise to identify maternal deaths,

1 such as through review of a random sam-
2 ple of reported deaths of women of child-
3 bearing age to ascertain cases of preg-
4 nancy-related and pregnancy-associated
5 deaths that are not discernable from a re-
6 view of death certificates alone.

7 When feasible and for purposes of effectively
8 collecting and obtaining data on pregnancy-re-
9 lated and pregnancy-associated deaths, the
10 State shall adopt the most recent standardized
11 birth and death certificates, as issued by the
12 National Center for Vital Health Statistics, in-
13 cluding the recommended checkbox section for
14 pregnancy on the death certificates.

15 “(D) CASE INVESTIGATION AND DEVELOP-
16 MENT OF CASE SUMMARIES.—Following receipt
17 of reports by the State department of health
18 pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) and col-
19 lection by the vital statistics unit of the State
20 of possible cases of pregnancy-related and preg-
21 nancy-associated deaths pursuant to subpara-
22 graph (C), the State, through the State mater-
23 nal mortality review committee established
24 under subsection (a), shall investigate each
25 case, utilizing the case abstraction form de-

1 scribed in subsection (c), and prepare de-identi-
2 fied case summaries, which shall be reviewed by
3 the committee and included in applicable re-
4 ports. For purposes of subsection (a), under the
5 processes established under subparagraphs (A),
6 (B), and (C), a State department of health or
7 vital statistics unit of a State shall provide to
8 the State maternal mortality review committee
9 access to information collected pursuant to such
10 subparagraphs as necessary to carry out this
11 subparagraph. Data and information collected
12 for the case summary and review are for pur-
13 poses of public health activities, in accordance
14 with HIPAA privacy and security law (as de-
15 fined in section 3009(a)(2) of the Public Health
16 Service Act). Such case investigations shall in-
17 clude data and information obtained through—

18 “(i) medical examiner and autopsy re-
19 ports of the woman involved;

20 “(ii) medical records of the woman,
21 including such records related to health
22 care prior to pregnancy, prenatal and post-
23 natal care, labor and delivery care, emer-
24 gency room care, hospital discharge
25 records, and any care delivered up until

1 the time of death of the woman for pur-
 2 poses of public health activities, in accord-
 3 ance with HIPAA privacy and security law
 4 (as defined in section 3009(a)(2) of the
 5 Public Health Service Act);

6 “(iii) oral and written interviews of in-
 7 dividuals directly involved in the maternal
 8 care of the woman during and immediately
 9 following the pregnancy of the woman, in-
 10 cluding health care, mental health, and so-
 11 cial service providers, as applicable;

12 “(iv) optional oral or written inter-
 13 views of the family of the woman;

14 “(v) socioeconomic and other relevant
 15 background information about the woman;

16 “(vi) information collected in subpara-
 17 graph (C)(i); and

18 “(vii) other information on the cause
 19 of death of the woman, such as social serv-
 20 ices and child welfare reports.

21 “(2) STATE MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW
 22 COMMITTEES.—

23 “(A) DUTIES.—

24 “(i) REQUIRED COMMITTEE ACTIVI-
 25 TIES.—For purposes of subsection (a), a

1 maternal mortality review committee estab-
2 lished by a State pursuant to a grant
3 under such subsection shall carry out the
4 following pregnancy-related death and
5 pregnancy-associated death review activi-
6 ties and shall include all information rel-
7 evant to the death involved on the case ab-
8 straction form developed under subsection
9 (d):

10 “(I) With respect to a case of
11 pregnancy-related or pregnancy-asso-
12 ciated death of a woman, review the
13 case summaries prepared under sub-
14 paragraphs (A), (B), (C), and (D) of
15 paragraph (1).

16 “(II) Review aggregate statistical
17 reports developed by the vital statis-
18 tics unit of the State under paragraph
19 (1)(C) regarding pregnancy-related
20 and pregnancy-associated deaths to
21 identify trends, patterns, and dispari-
22 ties in adverse outcomes and address
23 medical, non-medical, and system-re-
24 lated factors that may have contrib-
25 uted to such pregnancy-related and

1 pregnancy-associated deaths and dis-
2 parities.

3 “(III) Develop recommendations,
4 based on the review of the case sum-
5 maries under paragraph (1)(D) and
6 aggregate statistical reports under
7 subclause (II), to improve maternal
8 care, social and health services, and
9 public health policy and institutions,
10 including with respect to improving
11 access to maternal care, improving the
12 availability of social services, and
13 eliminating disparities in maternal
14 care and outcomes.

15 “(ii) OPTIONAL COMMITTEE ACTIVI-
16 TIES.—For purposes of subsection (a), a
17 maternal mortality review committee estab-
18 lished by a State under such subsection
19 may present findings and recommendations
20 regarding a specific case or set of cir-
21 cumstances directly to a health care facil-
22 ity or its local or State professional organi-
23 zation for the purpose of instituting policy
24 changes, educational activities, or other-

1 wise improving the quality of care provided
2 by the facilities.

3 “(B) COMPOSITION OF MATERNAL MOR-
4 TALITY REVIEW COMMITTEES.—

5 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Each State mater-
6 nal mortality review committee established
7 pursuant to a grant under subsection (a)
8 shall be multi-disciplinary, consisting of
9 health care and social service providers,
10 public health officials, other persons with
11 professional expertise on maternal health
12 and mortality, and patient and community
13 advocates who represent those communities
14 within such State that are the most af-
15 fected by maternal mortality. Membership
16 on such a committee of a State shall be re-
17 viewed annually by the State department
18 of health to ensure that membership rep-
19 resentation requirements are being fulfilled
20 in accordance with this paragraph.

21 “(ii) REQUIRED MEMBERSHIP.—Each
22 such review committee shall include—

23 “(I) representatives from medical
24 specialities providing care to pregnant
25 and postpartum patients, including

1 obstetricians (including generalists
2 and maternal fetal medicine special-
3 ists), and family practice physicians;

4 “(II) certified nurse midwives,
5 certified midwives, and advanced prac-
6 tice nurses;

7 “(III) hospital-based registered
8 nurses;

9 “(IV) representatives of the State
10 department of health maternal and
11 child health department;

12 “(V) social service providers or
13 social workers;

14 “(VI) the chief medical exam-
15 iners or designees;

16 “(VII) facility representatives,
17 such as from hospitals or free-stand-
18 ing birth centers; and

19 “(VIII) community or patient ad-
20 vocates who represent those commu-
21 nities within the State that are the
22 most affected by maternal mortality.

23 “(iii) ADDITIONAL MEMBERS.—Each
24 such review committee may also include
25 representatives from other relevant aca-

1 demic, health, social service, or policy pro-
2 fessions, or community organizations, on
3 an ongoing basis, or as needed, as deter-
4 mined beneficial by the review committee,
5 including—

6 “(I) anesthesiologists;

7 “(II) emergency physicians;

8 “(III) pathologists;

9 “(IV) epidemiologists or biostat-
10 isticians;

11 “(V) intensivists;

12 “(VI) vital statistics officers;

13 “(VII) nutritionists;

14 “(VIII) mental health profes-
15 sionals;

16 “(IX) substance abuse treatment
17 specialists;

18 “(X) representatives of relevant
19 advocacy groups;

20 “(XI) academics;

21 “(XII) representatives of bene-
22 ficiaries of the State plan under the
23 Medicaid program under title XIX;

24 “(XIII) paramedics;

25 “(XIV) lawyers;

1 “(XV) risk management special-
2 ists;

3 “(XVI) representatives of the de-
4 partments of health or public health
5 of major cities in the State involved;
6 and

7 “(XVII) policy makers.

8 “(iv) DIVERSE COMMUNITY MEMBER-
9 SHIP.—The composition of such a com-
10 mittee, with respect to a State, shall in-
11 clude—

12 “(I) representatives from diverse
13 communities, particularly those com-
14 munities within such State most se-
15 verely affected by pregnancy-related
16 deaths or pregnancy-associated deaths
17 and by a lack of access to relevant
18 maternal care services, from commu-
19 nity maternal child health organiza-
20 tions, and from minority advocacy
21 groups;

22 “(II) members, including health
23 care providers, from different geo-
24 graphic regions in the State, including

1 any rural, urban, and tribal areas;
2 and

3 “(III) health care and social serv-
4 ice providers who work in commu-
5 nities that are diverse with regard to
6 race, ethnicity, immigration status,
7 Indigenous status, and English pro-
8 ficiency.

9 “(v) MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEW
10 STAFF.—Staff of each such review com-
11 mittee shall include—

12 “(I) vital health statisticians, ma-
13 ternal child health statisticians, or
14 epidemiologists;

15 “(II) a coordinator of the State
16 maternal mortality review committee,
17 to be designated by the State; and

18 “(III) administrative staff.

19 “(C) OPTION FOR STATES TO FORM RE-
20 GIONAL MATERNAL MORTALITY REVIEWS.—
21 States with a low rate of occurrence of preg-
22 nancy-associated or pregnancy-related deaths
23 may choose to partner with one or more neigh-
24 boring States to fulfill the activities described in
25 paragraph (1)(C). In such a case, with respect

1 to States in such a partnership, any require-
2 ment under this section relating to the report-
3 ing of information related to such activities
4 shall be deemed to be fulfilled by each such
5 State if a single such report is submitted for
6 the partnership.

7 “(3) STATE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH ACTIVI-
8 TIES.—For purposes of subsection (a), a State de-
9 partment of health of a State receiving a grant
10 under such subsection shall—

11 “(A) in consultation with the maternal
12 mortality review committee of the State and in
13 conjunction with relevant professional organiza-
14 tions, develop a plan for ongoing health care
15 provider education, based on the findings and
16 recommendations of the committee, in order to
17 improve the quality of maternal care; and

18 “(B) take steps to widely disseminate the
19 findings and recommendations of the State ma-
20 ternal mortality review committees of the State
21 and to implement the recommendations of such
22 committee.

23 “(c) CASE ABSTRACTION FORM.—

24 “(1) DEVELOPMENT.—The Director of the Cen-
25 ters for Disease Control and Prevention shall de-

1 velop a uniform, comprehensive case abstraction
2 form and make such form available to States for
3 State maternal mortality review committees for use
4 by such committees in order to—

5 “(A) ensure that the cases and information
6 collected and reviewed by such committees can
7 be pooled for review by the Department of
8 Health and Human Services and its agencies;
9 and

10 “(B) preserve the uniformity of the infor-
11 mation and its use for Federal public health
12 purposes.

13 “(2) PERMISSIBLE STATE MODIFICATION.—
14 Each State may modify the form developed under
15 paragraph (1) for implementation and use by such
16 State or by the State maternal mortality review com-
17 mittee of such State by including on such form addi-
18 tional information to be collected, but may not alter
19 the standard questions on such form, in order to en-
20 sure that the information can be collected and re-
21 viewed centrally at the Federal level.

22 “(d) TREATMENT AS PUBLIC HEALTH AUTHORITY
23 FOR PURPOSES OF HIPAA.—For purposes of applying
24 HIPAA privacy and security law (as defined in section
25 3009(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act), a State ma-

1 ternal mortality review committee of a State established
2 pursuant to this section to carry out activities described
3 in subsection (b)(2)(A) shall be deemed to be a public
4 health authority described in section 164.501 (and ref-
5 erenced in section 164.512(b)(1)(i)) of title 45, Code of
6 Federal Regulations (or any successor regulation), car-
7 rying out public health activities and purposes described
8 in such section 164.512(b)(1)(i) (or any such successor
9 regulation).

10 “(e) PUBLIC DISCLOSURE OF INFORMATION.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2015 or a
12 subsequent fiscal year, each State receiving a grant
13 under this section for such year shall, subject to
14 paragraph (3), provide for the public disclosure, and
15 submission to the information clearinghouse estab-
16 lished under paragraph (2), of the information in-
17 cluded in the report of the State under section
18 506(a)(2)(F) for such year (relating to the findings
19 for such year of the State maternal mortality review
20 committee established by the State under this sec-
21 tion).

22 “(2) INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE.—The
23 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall es-
24 tablish an information clearinghouse, that shall be
25 administered by the Director of the Centers for Dis-

1 ease Control and Prevention, that will maintain find-
2 ings and recommendations submitted pursuant to
3 paragraph (1) and provide such findings and rec-
4 ommendations for public review and research pur-
5 poses by State health departments, maternal mor-
6 tality review committees, and health providers and
7 institutions.

8 “(3) CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION.—In
9 no case shall any individually identifiable health in-
10 formation be provided to the public, or submitted to
11 the information clearinghouse, under paragraph (1).

12 “(f) CONFIDENTIALITY OF REVIEW COMMITTEE
13 PROCEEDINGS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—All proceedings and activi-
15 ties of a State maternal mortality review committee
16 under this section, opinions of members of such a
17 committee formed as a result of such proceedings
18 and activities, and records obtained, created, or
19 maintained pursuant to this section, including
20 records of interviews, written reports, and state-
21 ments procured by the Department of Health and
22 Human Services or by any other person, agency, or
23 organization acting jointly with the Department, in
24 connection with morbidity and mortality reviews
25 under this section, shall be confidential, and not sub-

1 ject to discovery, subpoena, or introduction into evi-
2 dence in any civil, criminal, legislative, or other pro-
3 ceeding. Such records shall not be open to public in-
4 spection.

5 “(2) TESTIMONY OF MEMBERS OF COM-
6 MITTEE.—

7 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Members of a State
8 maternal mortality review committee under this
9 section may not be questioned in any civil,
10 criminal, legislative, or other proceeding regard-
11 ing information presented in, or opinions
12 formed as a result of, a meeting or communica-
13 tion of the committee.

14 “(B) CLARIFICATION.—Nothing in this
15 subsection shall be construed to prevent a mem-
16 ber of such a committee from testifying regard-
17 ing information that was obtained independent
18 of such member’s participation on the com-
19 mittee, or that is public information.

20 “(3) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION FOR RE-
21 SEARCH PURPOSES.—Nothing in this subsection
22 shall prohibit the publishing by such a committee or
23 the Department of Health and Human Services of
24 statistical compilations and research reports that—

1 “(A) are based on confidential information,
2 relating to morbidity and mortality review; and

3 “(B) do not contain identifying informa-
4 tion or any other information that could be
5 used to ultimately identify the individuals con-
6 cerned.

7 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

8 “(1) The term ‘pregnancy-associated death’
9 means the death of a woman while pregnant or dur-
10 ing the one-year period following the date of the end
11 of pregnancy, irrespective of the cause of such death.

12 “(2) The term ‘pregnancy-related death’ means
13 the death of a woman while pregnant or during the
14 one-year period following the date of the end of
15 pregnancy, irrespective of the duration or site of the
16 pregnancy, from any cause related to or aggravated
17 by the pregnancy or its management, but not from
18 any accidental or incidental cause.

19 “(3) The term ‘woman of childbearing age’
20 means a woman who is at least 10 years of age and
21 not more than 54 years of age.”.

22 (b) INCLUSION OF FINDINGS OF REVIEW COMMIT-
23 TEES IN REQUIRED REPORTS.—

24 (1) STATE TRIENNIAL REPORTS.—Paragraph

25 (2) of section 506(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 706(a))

1 is amended by inserting after subparagraph (E) the
2 following new subparagraph:

3 “(F) In the case of a State receiving a
4 grant under section 514, beginning for the first
5 fiscal year beginning after 3 years after the
6 date of establishment of the State maternal
7 mortality review committee established by the
8 State pursuant to such grant and once every 3
9 years thereafter, information containing the
10 findings and recommendations of such com-
11 mittee and information on the implementation
12 of such recommendations during the period in-
13 volved.”.

14 (2) ANNUAL REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Para-
15 graph (3) of such section is amended—

16 (A) in subparagraph (D), at the end, by
17 striking “and”;

18 (B) in subparagraph (E), at the end, by
19 striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

20 (C) by adding at the end the following new
21 subparagraph:

22 “(F) For fiscal year 2015 and each subse-
23 quent fiscal year, taking into account the find-
24 ings, recommendations, and implementation in-
25 formation submitted by States pursuant to

1 paragraph (2)(F), on the status of pregnancy-
2 related deaths and pregnancy-associated deaths
3 in the United States and including rec-
4 ommendations on methods to prevent such
5 deaths in the United States.”.

6 **SEC. 4. NIH WORKSHOP AND RESEARCH PLAN DEVELOP-**
7 **MENT ON SEVERE MATERNAL MORBIDITY.**

8 (a) WORKSHOP.—The Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services, acting through the Director of NIH and
10 in consultation with the Administrator of the Health Re-
11 sources and Services Administration, the Director of the
12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the heads of
13 other Federal agencies that administer Federal health pro-
14 grams, and relevant national professional organizations
15 dealing with maternal morbidity, shall organize a national
16 workshop to identify definitions for severe maternal mor-
17 bidity and make recommendations for a research plan to
18 identify and monitor severe maternal morbidity in the
19 United States.

20 (b) RESEARCH PLAN AND DATA COLLECTION PRO-
21 TOCOLS.—The Secretary, taking into account the findings
22 of the workshop under paragraph (1), shall develop uni-
23 form definitions of severe maternal morbidity, a research
24 plan on severe maternal morbidity, and possible data col-
25 lection protocols to assist States in identifying and moni-

1 toring cases of severe maternal morbidity and to develop
2 recommendations on addressing such cases.

3 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
4 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prepare and
5 submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report
6 concerning the definitions and research plan developed
7 under this section.

8 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated for fiscal year 2015—

10 (1) \$50,000 to carry out subsection (a); and

11 (2) \$100,000 to carry out subsection (b).

12 **SEC. 5. ELIMINATING DISPARITIES IN MATERNITY HEALTH**
13 **OUTCOMES.**

14 Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act
15 is amended by inserting after section 317T of such Act
16 (42 U.S.C. 247b–22) the following new section:

17 **“SEC. 317U. ELIMINATING DISPARITIES IN MATERNITY**
18 **HEALTH OUTCOMES.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, in consulta-
20 tion with relevant national stakeholder organizations, such
21 as national medical specialty organizations, national ma-
22 ternal child health organizations, and national health dis-
23 parity organizations, carry out the following activities to
24 eliminate disparities in maternal health outcomes:

1 “(1) Conduct research into the determinants
2 and the distribution of disparities in maternal care,
3 health risks, and health outcomes, and improve the
4 capacity of the performance measurement infrastruc-
5 ture to measure such disparities.

6 “(2) Expand access to services that have been
7 demonstrated to improve the quality and outcomes
8 of maternity care for vulnerable populations.

9 “(3) Establish a demonstration project to com-
10 pare the effectiveness of interventions to reduce dis-
11 parities in maternity services and outcomes, and im-
12 plement and assessing effective interventions.

13 “(b) SCOPE AND SELECTION OF STATES FOR DEM-
14 ONSTRATION PROJECT.—The demonstration project
15 under subsection (a)(3) shall be conducted in no more
16 than 8 States, which shall be selected by the Secretary
17 based on—

18 “(1) applications submitted by States, which
19 specify which regions and populations the State in-
20 volved will serve under the demonstration project;

21 “(2) criteria designed by the Secretary to en-
22 sure that, as a whole, the demonstration project is,
23 to the greatest extent possible, representative of the
24 demographic and geographic composition of commu-
25 nities most affected by disparities;

1 “(3) criteria designed by the Secretary to en-
2 sure that a variety of type of models are tested
3 through the demonstration project and that such
4 models include interventions that have an existing
5 evidence base for effectiveness; and

6 “(4) criteria designed by the Secretary to as-
7 sure that the demonstration projects and models will
8 be carried out in consultation with local and regional
9 provider organizations, such as community health
10 centers, hospital systems, and medical societies rep-
11 resenting providers of maternity services.

12 “(c) DURATION OF DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—
13 The demonstration project under subsection (a)(3) shall
14 begin on January 1, 2015, and end on December 31,
15 2019.

16 “(d) GRANTS FOR EVALUATION AND MONITORING.—
17 The Secretary may make grants to States and health care
18 providers participating in the demonstration project under
19 subsection (a)(3) for the purpose of collecting data nec-
20 essary for the evaluation and monitoring of such project.

21 “(e) REPORTS.—

22 “(1) STATE REPORTS.—Each State that par-
23 ticipates in the demonstration project under sub-
24 section (a)(3) shall report to the Secretary, in a

1 time, form, and manner specified by the Secretary,
2 the data necessary to—

3 “(A) monitor the—

4 “(i) outcomes of the project;

5 “(ii) costs of the project; and

6 “(iii) quality of maternity care pro-
7 vided under the project; and

8 “(B) evaluate the rationale for the selec-
9 tion of the items and services included in any
10 bundled payment made by the State under the
11 project.

12 “(2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than December
13 31, 2020, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
14 report on the results of the demonstration project
15 under subsection (a)(3).”.

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