

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3782

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan and program to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2017

Mr. CARTWRIGHT (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HECK, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. KILMER, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. LEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. POLIS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. TSONGAS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. HANABUSA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan and program to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Climate Change Health
3 Protection and Promotion Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLI-**
5 **MATE CHANGE.**

6 (a) FINDINGS.—The United States Global Change
7 Research Program Climate and Health Assessment states
8 that—

9 (1) the impacts of human-induced climate
10 change are increasing nationwide;

11 (2) rising greenhouse gas concentrations result
12 in increases in temperature, changes in precipitation,
13 increases in the frequency and intensity of some ex-
14 treme weather events, and rising sea levels;

15 (3) these climate change impacts endanger our
16 health by affecting our food and water sources, the
17 air we breathe, the weather we experience, and our
18 interactions with the built and natural environments;
19 and

20 (4) as the climate continues to change, the risks
21 to human health continue to grow.

22 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
23 gress that—

24 (1) climate change is real;

25 (2) human activity significantly contributes to
26 climate change;

1 (3) climate change negatively impacts health;
2 and

3 (4) the Federal Government, in cooperation
4 with international, State, Tribal, and local govern-
5 ments, concerned public, private and Native Amer-
6 ican organizations, and citizens, should use all prac-
7 ticable means and measures—

8 (A) to assist the efforts of public health
9 and health care professionals, first responders,
10 States, Tribes, municipalities, and Native
11 American and local communities to incorporate
12 measures to prepare public health and health
13 care systems to respond to the impacts of cli-
14 mate change;

15 (B) to ensure—

16 (i) that the Nation’s public health and
17 health care professionals have sufficient in-
18 formation to prepare for and respond to
19 the adverse health impacts of climate
20 change;

21 (ii) the utility and value of scientific
22 research in advancing understanding of—

23 (I) the health impacts of climate
24 change; and

1 (II) strategies to prepare for and
2 respond to the health impacts of cli-
3 mate change;

4 (iii) the identification of communities
5 and populations vulnerable to the health
6 impacts of climate change, including in-
7 fants, children, pregnant women, the elder-
8 ly, individuals with disabilities or pre-
9 existing illnesses, and low-income popu-
10 lations, the development of strategic re-
11 sponse plans to be carried out by public
12 health and health care professionals for
13 those communities;

14 (iv) the improvement of health status
15 and health equity through efforts to pre-
16 pare for and respond to climate change;
17 and

18 (v) the inclusion of health impacts in
19 the development of climate change re-
20 sponses;

21 (C) to encourage further research, inter-
22 disciplinary partnership, and collaboration
23 among stakeholders in order to—

24 (i) understand and monitor the health
25 impacts of climate change;

1 (ii) improve public health knowledge
2 and response strategies to climate change;
3 and

4 (iii) identify actions and policies that
5 are beneficial to health and contribute to
6 climate solutions;

7 (D) to enhance preparedness activities, and
8 health care and public health infrastructure, re-
9 lating to climate change and health;

10 (E) to encourage each and every American
11 to learn about the impacts of climate change on
12 health; and

13 (F) to assist the efforts of developing na-
14 tions to incorporate measures to prepare public
15 health and health care systems to respond to
16 the impacts of climate change.

17 **SEC. 3. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.**

18 Nothing in this Act limits the authority provided to
19 or responsibility conferred on any Federal department or
20 agency by any provision of any law (including regulations)
21 or authorizes any violation of any provision of any law (in-
22 cluding regulations), including any health, energy, envi-
23 ronmental, transportation, or any other law or regulation.

1 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN AND PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) REQUIREMENT.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
5 Human Services (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
6 retary”), on the basis of the best available science,
7 and in consultation pursuant to paragraph (2), shall
8 publish a strategic action plan and establish a pro-
9 gram to ensure the public health and health care
10 systems are prepared for and can respond to the im-
11 pacts of climate change on health in the United
12 States and other nations.

13 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing or making
14 any revision to the national strategic action plan and
15 program, the Secretary shall—

16 (A) consult with the Director of the Cen-
17 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, the
18 Administrator of the Environmental Protection
19 Agency, the Director of the National Institutes
20 of Health, the Undersecretary of Commerce for
21 Oceans and Atmosphere, the Administrator of
22 the National Aeronautics and Space Adminis-
23 tration, the Director of the Indian Health Serv-
24 ice, the Secretary of Energy, other appropriate
25 Federal agencies, Indian Tribes, State and local
26 governments, public health organizations, and

1 scientists, and other interested stakeholders;
2 and

3 (B) provide opportunity for public input
4 and consultation with Tribes and Native Amer-
5 ican organizations.

6 (b) ACTIVITIES.—

7 (1) NATIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN.—Not
8 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of
9 this Act, the Secretary, acting through the Director
10 of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
11 and in collaboration with other Federal agencies as
12 appropriate, shall, on the basis of the best available
13 science, and in consultation with the entities de-
14 scribed in subsection (a)(2), publish a national stra-
15 tegic action plan under paragraph (2) to guide the
16 climate and health program and assist public health
17 and health care professionals in preparing for and
18 responding to the impacts of climate change on pub-
19 lic health in the United States and other nations,
20 particularly developing nations.

21 (2) NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN.—The national
22 strategic plan shall include an assessment of the
23 health system capacity of the United States to ad-
24 dress climate change including—

1 (A) the identification and prioritization of
2 communities and populations vulnerable to the
3 health impacts of climate change;

4 (B) providing outreach and communication
5 aimed at public health and health care profes-
6 sionals and the public to promote preparedness
7 and response strategies;

8 (C) providing for programs across Federal
9 agencies to advance research related to the im-
10 pacts of climate change on health;

11 (D) the identification and assessment of
12 existing preparedness and response strategies
13 for the health impacts of climate change;

14 (E) the prioritization of critical public
15 health and health care infrastructure projects;

16 (F) providing modeling and forecasting
17 tools of climate change health impacts;

18 (G) establishing academic and regional
19 centers of excellence;

20 (H) providing technical assistance and sup-
21 port for preparedness and response plans for
22 the health threats of climate change in States
23 and developing nations; and

24 (I) developing, improving, integrating, and
25 maintaining domestic and international disease

1 surveillance systems and monitoring capacity to
2 respond to health-related impacts of climate
3 change, including on topics addressing—

4 (i) water-, food-, and vector-borne in-
5 fectious diseases and climate change;

6 (ii) pulmonary effects, including re-
7 sponses to aeroallergens;

8 (iii) cardiovascular effects, including
9 impacts of temperature extremes;

10 (iv) air pollution health effects, includ-
11 ing heightened sensitivity to air pollution;

12 (v) harmful algal blooms;

13 (vi) mental and behavioral health im-
14 pacts of climate change;

15 (vii) the health of migrants, refugees,
16 displaced persons, and vulnerable commu-
17 nities;

18 (viii) the implications for communities
19 and populations vulnerable to the health
20 effects of climate change, as well as strate-
21 gies for responding to climate change with-
22 in these communities;

23 (ix) Tribal, local and community-
24 based health interventions for climate-re-
25 lated health impacts; and

1 (x) extreme heat and weather events.

2 (3) CLIMATE AND HEALTH PROGRAM.—The
3 Secretary, acting through the Director of the Cen-
4 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, and in col-
5 laboration with other Federal agencies, as appro-
6 priate, shall ensure that the climate and health pro-
7 gram established under this section addresses pri-
8 ority health actions including the following:

9 (A) Serve as a credible source of informa-
10 tion on the physical, mental, and behavioral
11 health consequences of climate change for the
12 United States population and globally.

13 (B) Track data on environmental condi-
14 tions, disease risks, and disease occurrence re-
15 lated to climate change.

16 (C) Expand capacity for modeling and
17 forecasting health effects that may be climate-
18 related.

19 (D) Enhance the science base to better un-
20 derstand the relationship between climate
21 change and health outcomes.

22 (E) Identify locations and population
23 groups at greatest risk for specific health
24 threats, such as increased heat stress, degraded
25 air and water quality, food, or water-related in-

1 fections, vector-borne illnesses, pulmonary and
2 cardiovascular effects, mental and behavioral
3 health effects and food, water, and nutrient in-
4 security.

5 (F) Communicate the health-related as-
6 pects of climate change, including risks and
7 ways to reduce them, to the public, decision-
8 makers, public health professionals, and health
9 care providers.

10 (G) Develop partnerships with other gov-
11 ernment agencies, the private sector, non-
12 governmental organizations, universities, and
13 international organizations to more effectively
14 address United States and global health aspects
15 of climate change.

16 (H) Provide leadership to State and local
17 governments, community leaders, health care
18 professionals, nongovernmental organizations,
19 the faith-based communities, the private sector
20 and the public, domestically and internationally,
21 regarding health protection from climate change
22 effects.

23 (I) Develop and implement preparedness
24 and response plans for health threats such as

1 heat waves, severe weather events, and infec-
2 tious diseases.

3 (J) Provide technical advice and support to
4 State and local health departments, the private
5 sector, and others in developing and imple-
6 menting national and global preparedness meas-
7 ures related to the health effects of climate
8 change.

9 (K) Promote workforce development by
10 helping to ensure the training of a new genera-
11 tion of competent, experienced public health
12 and health care professionals to respond to the
13 health threats posed by climate change.

14 (c) PERIODIC ASSESSMENT AND REVISION.—Not
15 later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this Act,
16 and every 4 years thereafter, the Secretary shall periodi-
17 cally assess, and revise as necessary, the national strategic
18 action plan under subsection (b)(1) and the climate and
19 health program under subsection (b)(2), to reflect new in-
20 formation collected pursuant to the implementation of the
21 national strategic action plan and program and otherwise,
22 including information on—

23 (1) the status of critical environmental health
24 parameters and related human health impacts;

1 (2) the impacts of climate change on public
2 health; and

3 (3) advances in the development of strategies
4 for preparing for and responding to the impacts of
5 climate change on public health.

6 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

7 (1) IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH HHS.—The
8 Secretary shall exercise the Secretary’s authority
9 under this Act and other Federal statutes to achieve
10 the goals and measures of the national strategic ac-
11 tion plan and climate and health program.

12 (2) OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND
13 INITIATIVES.—The Secretary and Federal officials of
14 other relevant Federal agencies shall administer
15 public health programs and initiatives authorized by
16 laws other than this Act, subject to the requirements
17 of such laws, in a manner designed to achieve the
18 goals of the national strategic action plan and cli-
19 mate and health program.

20 **SEC. 5. ADVISORY BOARD.**

21 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall, pursuant
22 to the Federal Advisory Committee Act (Public Law 92–
23 463), establish a permanent science advisory board to be
24 comprised of not less than 10 and not more than 20 mem-
25 bers.

1 (b) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—The Secretary
2 shall appoint the members of the science advisory board
3 (referred to in this subsection as the “Board”) from
4 among individuals who—

5 (1) are recommended by the President of the
6 National Academy of Sciences and the President of
7 the National Academy of Medicine; and

8 (2) have expertise in essential public health and
9 health care services, including those related to vul-
10 nerable populations, climate change, and other rel-
11 evant disciplines.

12 (c) FUNCTIONS.—The science advisory board shall—

13 (1) provide scientific and technical advice and
14 recommendations to the Secretary on the domestic
15 and international impacts of climate change on pub-
16 lic health, populations and regions particularly vul-
17 nerable to the effects of climate change, and strate-
18 gies and mechanisms to prepare for and respond to
19 the impacts of climate change on public health; and

20 (2) advise the Secretary regarding the best
21 science available for purposes of issuing the national
22 strategic action plan and conducting the climate and
23 health program.

1 **SEC. 6. CLIMATE CHANGE HEALTH PROTECTION AND PRO-**
2 **MOTION REPORTS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer to enter
4 into an agreement with the National Research Council,
5 under which the National Research Council will prepare
6 periodic reports to aid public health and health care pro-
7 fessionals in preparing for and responding to the adverse
8 health effects of climate change that—

9 (1) review scientific developments on health im-
10 pacts of climate change; and

11 (2) recommend changes to the national stra-
12 tegic action plan and climate and health program.

13 (b) SUBMISSION.—The agreement under subsection
14 (a) shall require a report to be submitted to Congress and
15 the Secretary and made publicly available not later than
16 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, and every
17 4 years thereafter.

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