

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2658

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection, analysis, and epidemiological research regarding neonatal abstinence syndrome.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 12, 2018

Mr. NELSON (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for systematic data collection, analysis, and epidemiological research regarding neonatal abstinence syndrome.

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 “Protecting Newborns
5 from Opioids Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME RESEARCH**
 2 **AND SURVEILLANCE.**

3 Title III of the Public Health Service Act is amended
 4 by inserting after section 317L-1 (42 U.S.C. 247b-13a)
 5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 317L-2. NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME RE-**
 7 **SEARCH AND SURVEILLANCE.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
 9 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
 10 vention (referred to in this section as the ‘Director’),
 11 shall—

12 “(1) award grants to States to create or im-
 13 prove surveillance systems for neonatal abstinence
 14 syndrome, and analyze the data collected through
 15 such State systems; and

16 “(2) conduct research on the prevention, factors
 17 surrounding, and health outcomes of neonatal absti-
 18 nence syndrome.

19 “(b) NAS SURVEILLANCE.—

20 “(1) STATE GRANT PROGRAM.—To provide sup-
 21 port to States receiving grants under subsection
 22 (a)(1), the Secretary shall (directly or through
 23 grants or cooperative agreements to public and non-
 24 profit private entities)—

25 “(A) cooperate with and assist States in
 26 implementing a State-wide surveillance system

1 to rapidly determine the incidence and preva-
2 lence of neonatal abstinence syndrome;

3 “(B) include demographics and other in-
4 formation, such as race, ethnicity, geographic
5 location, and family history;

6 “(C) provide technical assistance to States
7 to improve identification of neonatal abstinence
8 syndrome;

9 “(D) ensure a pathway for data sharing
10 between States and the Centers for Disease
11 Control and Prevention; and

12 “(E) ensure that data collection is con-
13 sistent with applicable State and Federal pri-
14 vacy laws.

15 “(2) CDC RESEARCH.—The Director shall—

16 “(A) collect data on neonatal abstinence
17 syndrome that States gather using grant funds
18 under subsection (a)(1);

19 “(B) conduct analysis of such data to iden-
20 tify national trends; and

21 “(C) issue public reports on such analysis.

22 “(c) NAS RESEARCH.—In carrying out subsection
23 (a)(2), the Secretary shall conduct new studies, or cap-
24 italize on existing studies, to research—

1 “(1) long-term physical, educational, and neuro-
2 developmental outcomes of children affected by neo-
3 natal abstinence syndrome;

4 “(2) the prevalence of, and reasons for, opioid
5 use among women who are pregnant or may become
6 pregnant; and

7 “(3) the comparative effectiveness of available
8 treatment protocols for infants affected by neonatal
9 abstinence syndrome.

10 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
11 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
12 priated such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal
13 years 2019 through 2023.”.

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