117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION  
H. R. 1268

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award targeted grants to State, Tribal, Territorial, and local health departments or nonprofit organizations in geographic locations with racial and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by COVID–19 to disseminate information regarding the safety and efficacy of COVID–19 vaccines, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Ms. Velázquez (for herself, Ms. Meng, Mr. Cohen, Mr. San Nicolas, Mr. Sires, Mr. Evans, Mr. Espaillat, Mr. Hastings, Mrs. Hayes, Mr. Jones, Mr. Nadler, Mr. Torres of New York, Mrs. Watson Coleman, Ms. Wilson of Florida, Ms. Strickland, Ms. Scanlon, Ms. Clarke of New York, Ms. Bourdeaux, Mrs. Carolyn B. Maloney of New York, and Mr. Carbajal) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award targeted grants to State, Tribal, Territorial, and local health departments or nonprofit organizations in geographic locations with racial and ethnic minorities and other vulnerable populations disproportionately impacted by COVID–19 to disseminate information regarding the safety and efficacy of COVID–19 vaccines, and for other purposes.
Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-
tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Building COVID–19
Vaccine Confidence Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. HEALTH DISPARITY-INFORMED COVID–19 VACCINE
SAFETY AND EFFICACY PUBLIC AWARENESS
CAMPAIGN GRANTS.

(a) In General.—The Secretary of Health and
Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
retary”), acting through the Director of the Centers for
Disease Control and Prevention and in coordination with
the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health and,
as appropriate, with the directors of the relevant Offices
of Minority health of the Department of Health and
Human Services, the Director of the National Institute on
Minority Health and Health Disparities, and the Director
of the Indian Health Service, shall award grants to eligible
entities to carry out evidence-based campaigns to dissemi-
nate COVID–19 vaccination information.

(b) Eligible Entities.—To be eligible to receive a
grant under this section, an entity shall—

(1) be a State, Tribal, Territorial, or local
health department, an Urban Indian organization
(as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care
Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)), a nonprofit community-based organization, or a nonprofit faith-based organization; and

(2) submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including demographic data on the entity’s COVID–19 vaccine campaign target.

(e) Use of Funds.—Entities receiving a grant under this section shall use such grant funds to—

(1) create multilingual and culturally appropriate messaging to disseminate scientific and evidence-based information related to COVID–19 vaccines;

(2) provide information on where the COVID–19 vaccine can be obtained;

(3) target racial and ethnic minority communities;

(4) target communities with a COVID–19 Community Vulnerability Index higher than the national average;

(5) increase awareness and knowledge of the safety and effectiveness of vaccines approved or authorized by the Food and Drug Administration for
the prevention and control of COVID–19 and the
benefit of receiving a COVID–19 vaccine;

(6) increase awareness and knowledge of
COVID–19, including countering stigma associated
with COVID–19;

(7) address vaccine skepticism in communities
of color;

(8) address COVID–19 vaccine misinformation;

(9) address side effects after COVID–19 vac-
cination;

(10) share information on the processes and
policies that lead to vaccine development, licensure,
manufacturing, and recommendations for use; and

(11) other matters the Secretary determines
necessary.

(d) Prohibition on Discrimination.—Programs
funded under this section shall not discriminate on the
basis of actual or perceived sex, race, color, ethnicity, na-
tional origin, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity,
or religion. Nothing in this section shall be construed to
invalidate or limit rights, remedies, procedures, or legal
standards available under any other Federal law or any
law of a State or a political subdivision of a State, includ-
ing the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000a et
seq.), title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 (20

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 45 days after the date on which appropriated funds are made available to the Secretary under this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on how such funds have been used during such 45-day period and a plan for using any remaining funds within the next 45 days.

(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall—

(1) conduct qualitative assessments regarding the campaign under this section; and

(2) not later than one year after the date of enactment of this Act, prepare and submit to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives an evaluation of the campaign under this section.

(g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to limit an eligible entity from receiving
a grant under this section for a population otherwise served by such organization with other Federal funds.

(h) PRIORITIZATION.—In awarding grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give special consideration to eligible entities that have demonstrated a commitment to a targeted campaign to reach communities where the greatest health disparities have been identified with respect to testing access and rates of infections, hospitalizations, and deaths related to COVID–19.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.