

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5551

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 9, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, 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 “Improving the Health
3 of Children Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CENTER ON**
5 **BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DIS-**
6 **ABILITIES.**

7 Section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (42
8 U.S.C. 247b-4) is amended—

9 (1) by striking subsection (a)(4) and inserting
10 the following:

11 “(4) SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.—The Secretary, act-
12 ing through the Director of the Center, shall con-
13 tinue to carry out programs related to—

14 “(A) early identification of developmental
15 delay and disability;

16 “(B) birth defects;

17 “(C) folic acid;

18 “(D) cerebral palsy;

19 “(E) intellectual disabilities;

20 “(F) child development;

21 “(G) newborn screening;

22 “(H) autism;

23 “(I) fragile X syndrome;

24 “(J) fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and
25 other conditions related to prenatal substance
26 use;

1 “(K) pediatric genetic disorders;
2 “(L) neuromuscular diseases;
3 “(M) congenital heart defects;
4 “(N) attention-deficit/hyperactivity dis-
5 order;
6 “(O) stillbirth;
7 “(P) Tourette Syndrome; or
8 “(Q) any other relevant disease, disability,
9 disorder, or condition, as determined the Sec-
10 retary.”;

11 (2) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding
12 paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than February
13 1” and all that follows through “2 fiscal years—”
14 and inserting the following: “The Secretary shall
15 submit biennially to the Committee on Energy and
16 Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the
17 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
18 sions of the Senate, a report that—”; and

19 (3) in subsection (f), by striking “such sums as
20 may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003
21 through 2007” and inserting “\$186,010,000 for
22 each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026”.

1 **SEC. 3. EFFECTS OF FOLIC ACID IN PREVENTION OF BIRTH**
2 **DEFECTS.**

3 Section 317J of the Public Health Service Act (42
4 U.S.C. 247b–11) is amended by striking subsection (e)
5 (relating to authorization of appropriations).

Passed the House of Representatives December 8,
2021.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.