

Union Calendar No. 518

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7213

[Report No. 118–620]

To amend the Public Health Service Act to [enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism / reauthorize certain programs with respect to autism spectrum disorder?], and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 1, 2024

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. CUELLAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

JULY 30, 2024

Additional sponsors: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MOLINARO, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. SOTO, Mr. KILEY, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BACON, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. OMAR, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. WATERS, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. PANETTA, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. RYAN, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. LANDSMAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. POCAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. CROW

JULY 30, 2024

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on February 1, 2024]

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to [enhance activities of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research on autism spectrum disorder and enhance programs relating to autism / reauthorize certain programs with respect to autism spectrum disorder?], 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,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Autism Collaboration,*
 5 *Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of*
 6 *2024” or the “Autism CARES Act of 2024”.*

7 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH ACTIVITIES.**

8 *(a) EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES.—Paragraph (1) of sec-*
 9 *tion 409C(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.*
 10 *284g(a)) is amended to read as follows:*

11 *“(1) EXPANSION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Director*
 12 *of NIH (in this section referred to as the ‘Director’),*
 13 *in coordination and consultation with the Adminis-*
 14 *trator of the Administration for Community Living,*
 15 *and other agencies as appropriate, shall—*

16 *“(A) subject to the availability of appro-*
 17 *priations, expand, intensify, and coordinate the*
 18 *activities of the National Institutes of Health*
 19 *with respect to research on autism spectrum dis-*
 20 *order, including—*

21 *“(i) basic and clinical research in*
 22 *fields including pathology, developmental*
 23 *neurobiology, genetics, epigenetics, pharma-*
 24 *cology, nutrition, immunology,*
 25 *neuroimmunology, neurobehavioral develop-*

1 *ment, endocrinology, gastroenterology, toxi-*
2 *cology, speech, language and hearing*
3 *science, psychiatry, psychology, develop-*
4 *mental behavioral pediatrics, and geron-*
5 *tology; and*

6 “(ii) *research on interventions to*
7 *maximize outcomes for individuals with au-*
8 *tism spectrum disorder; and*

9 “(B) *ensure that research referred to in sub-*
10 *paragraph (A)—*

11 “(i) *investigates the causes (including*
12 *possible environmental causes), diagnosis or*
13 *ruling out, early and ongoing detection,*
14 *prevention, intervention, services, supports*
15 *across the lifespan for autistic individuals*
16 *and caregivers, and treatment for autism*
17 *spectrum disorder and co-occurring condi-*
18 *tions, including dissemination and imple-*
19 *mentation of clinical care, supports, inter-*
20 *ventions, and treatments; and*

21 “(ii) *reflects the entire population of*
22 *individuals with autism spectrum disorder,*
23 *including the full range of cognitive, com-*
24 *municative, behavioral, and adaptive func-*
25 *tioning, as well as co-occurring conditions*

1 *and needs for support and services, includ-*
2 *ing care necessary for physical safety.”.*

3 (b) *CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE*.—Section 409C(b) of
4 *the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g(b))* is
5 *amended—*

6 (1) *in paragraph (2)—*

7 (A) *by striking “prevention, and treatment”*
8 *and inserting “prevention, services, and treat-*
9 *ment”;*

10 (B) *by striking “including the fields” and*
11 *inserting “including in the fields”; and*

12 (C) *by striking “behavioral psychology, and*
13 *clinical psychology” and inserting “behavioral*
14 *psychology, clinical psychology, and geron-*
15 *tology”;*

16 (2) *in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “not less*
17 *than five centers” and inserting “not fewer than six*
18 *centers”; and*

19 (3) *in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “period of*
20 *not to exceed” and inserting “period not to exceed”.*

21 (c) *PUBLIC INPUT*.—Section 409C(d) of the Public
22 *Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 284g(d))* is amended to read
23 *as follows:*

24 “(d) *PUBLIC INPUT*.—

1 “(1) *IN GENERAL.*—*The Director shall under*
2 *subsection (a)(1) provide for means through which the*
3 *public can obtain information on the existing and*
4 *planned programs and activities of the National In-*
5 *stitutes of Health with respect to autism spectrum*
6 *disorder and through which the Director can receive*
7 *comments from the public regarding such programs*
8 *and activities.*

9 “(2) *OPPORTUNITIES.*—*Such public input oppor-*
10 *tunities may include encouraging the centers under*
11 *subsection (b)(1) to establish an external advisory*
12 *board or adopting a comprehensive plan to ensure in-*
13 *dividuals with various backgrounds and perspectives*
14 *are represented, among other activities. Such opportu-*
15 *nities should consider including, as appropriate, indi-*
16 *viduals, family members, and caregivers of individ-*
17 *uals with autism spectrum disorder who represent the*
18 *entire population of individuals with autism spec-*
19 *trum disorder, including the full range of cognitive,*
20 *communicative, behavioral, and adaptive functioning,*
21 *to better inform research findings and future stud-*
22 *ies.”.*

1 **SEC. 3. PROGRAMS RELATING TO AUTISM.**

2 (a) *DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE*
 3 *AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.*—Section 399AA of the Public
 4 *Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i) is amended—*

5 (1) *in subsection (b)(1), by striking “and causes”*
 6 *and inserting “causes, and life course”; and*

7 (2) *in subsection (e), by striking “2024” and in-*
 8 *serting “2029”.*

9 (b) *AUTISM EDUCATION, EARLY DETECTION, AND*
 10 *INTERVENTION.*—Section 399BB of the Public Health Serv-
 11 *ice Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–1) is amended—*

12 (1) *in subsection (a)(2), by striking “subsequent*
 13 *interventions” and inserting “subsequent interven-*
 14 *tions and services”;*

15 (2) *in subsection (b)(1), by striking “culturally*
 16 *competent information” and inserting “culturally*
 17 *and linguistically responsive information”;*

18 (3) *in subsection (b)(2)—*

19 (A) *by striking “promote research” and in-*
 20 *serting “promote research, which may include*
 21 *community-based participatory research,”; and*

22 (B) *by striking “screening tools” each place*
 23 *it appears and inserting “screening and diag-*
 24 *nostic tools”;*

25 (4) *in subsection (b)(3), by striking “at higher*
 26 *risk” and inserting “at increased likelihood”;*

1 (5) in subsection (b)(4), by inserting “, which
2 may include such individuals utilizing parents and
3 guardians trained to provide interventions, services,
4 and supports” before the semicolon at the end;

5 (6) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “culturally
6 competent information” and inserting “culturally
7 and linguistically responsive information”;

8 (7) in subsection (c)(2)(A)(ii)—

9 (A) by striking “advocates,” and inserting
10 “advocates, self-advocates,”; and

11 (B) by striking “culturally competent infor-
12 mation” and inserting “culturally and linguis-
13 tically responsive information”;

14 (8) by amending paragraph (1) of subsection (e)
15 to read as follows:

16 “(1) TRAINING.—The Secretary, in coordination
17 with activities conducted under title V of the Social
18 Security Act, shall, subject to the availability of ap-
19 propriations, strengthen the capacity of existing
20 training programs and expand existing interdiscipli-
21 nary training opportunities or opportunities to in-
22 crease the number of programs that address the health
23 and well-being of individuals who have or are at in-
24 creased likelihood for autism spectrum disorder and
25 other neurodevelopmental disabilities across their life-

1 *span. Activities under the preceding sentence shall in-*
2 *clude—*

3 *“(A) awarding competitive grants or coop-*
4 *erative agreements to public or nonprofit agen-*
5 *cies, including institutions of higher education,*
6 *to expand existing or develop new maternal and*
7 *child health interdisciplinary leadership edu-*
8 *cation in neurodevelopmental and related dis-*
9 *abilities programs (similar to the programs de-*
10 *veloped under section 501(a)(2) of the Social Se-*
11 *curity Act) in States that do not have such a*
12 *program;*

13 *“(B) ensuring that trainees under such*
14 *training programs—*

15 *“(i) receive an appropriate balance of*
16 *academic, clinical, and community oppor-*
17 *tunities;*

18 *“(ii) are culturally and linguistically*
19 *responsive;*

20 *“(iii) are from various backgrounds;*

21 *“(iv) demonstrate a capacity to evalu-*
22 *ate, diagnose or rule out, develop, and pro-*
23 *vide evidence-based interventions and pro-*
24 *grams to individuals with autism spectrum*

1 *disorder and other developmental disabil-*
2 *ities across their lifespan; and*

3 “(v) *demonstrate an ability to use a*
4 *person- and family-centered approach,*
5 *which may include collaborating with re-*
6 *search centers or networks to provide train-*
7 *ing for providers of respite care (as defined*
8 *in section 2901);*

9 “(C) *ensuring that program sites provide*
10 *culturally and linguistically responsive services;*
11 *and*

12 “(D) *encouraging training programs to*
13 *partner with appropriate entities to build com-*
14 *munity capacity.”;*

15 (9) *in subsection (e)(2), by adding at the end the*
16 *following new subparagraph:*

17 “(C) *REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after*
18 *September 30, 2024, the Comptroller General of*
19 *the United States shall prepare and submit to*
20 *the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the*
21 *House of Representatives and the Committee on*
22 *Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the*
23 *Senate a report examining how to increase the*
24 *number of developmental-behavioral pediatri-*

1 *cians, including through the developmental be-*
 2 *havioral pediatrician training program.”;*

3 *(10) in subsection (f)—*

4 *(A) by striking “promote research” and in-*
 5 *serting “promote research, including community-*
 6 *based participatory research,”;*

7 *(B) by striking “physical and behavioral*
 8 *health of individuals” and inserting “physical*
 9 *and behavioral health, and communication*
 10 *needs, of individuals”; and*

11 *(C) by striking “disseminate information*
 12 *related to such research and guidelines” and in-*
 13 *serting “disseminate information relating to*
 14 *such research and guidelines to improve the*
 15 *quality of life and long-term outcomes”; and*

16 *(11) in subsection (g), by striking “2024” and*
 17 *inserting “2029”.*

18 *(c) INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COM-*
 19 *MITTEE.—Section 399CC of the Public Health Service Act*
 20 *(42 U.S.C. 280i–2) is amended—*

21 *(1) in subsection (b)—*

22 *(A) in paragraph (2), by striking “develop*
 23 *a summary” and inserting “develop and update*
 24 *a summary”;*

1 (B) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by striking
2 “make recommendations” and inserting “make
3 and update recommendations”; and

4 (C) by striking paragraphs (5) and (6) and
5 inserting the following:

6 “(5) develop and update a strategic plan for the
7 conduct of, and support for, autism spectrum disorder
8 research, including as practicable for services and
9 supports, for individuals with an autism spectrum
10 disorder across the lifespan of such individuals and
11 the families of such individuals, and across the entire
12 population of individuals with autism spectrum dis-
13 order, including the full range of cognitive, commu-
14 nicative, behavioral, and adaptive functioning, as
15 well as co-occurring conditions and needs for support
16 and services, including care necessary for physical
17 safety, which such plan shall include proposed budg-
18 etary requirements and recommendations to ensure
19 that autism spectrum disorder research, and services
20 and support activities to the extent practicable, of the
21 Department of Health and Human Services and of
22 other Federal departments and agencies are not un-
23 necessarily duplicative; and

24 “(6) submit to the Congress and President—

1 “(A) an annual update on the summary of
2 advances described in paragraph (2); and

3 “(B) each update to the strategic plan de-
4 scribed in paragraph (5), including any steps
5 that have already been taken to implement the
6 recommendations in such updated strategic plan
7 and progress made in achieving the goals out-
8 lined in such updated strategic plan.”; and

9 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “2024” and in-
10 serting “2029”.

11 (d) *REPORTS TO CONGRESS*.—Section 399DD of the
12 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–3) is amended—

13 (1) by striking “Autism CARES Act of 2019”
14 each place it appears and inserting “Autism CARES
15 Act of 2024”;

16 (2) in subsection (a), by amending paragraph
17 (1) to read as follows:

18 “(1) *IN GENERAL*.—Not later than 4 years after
19 September 30, 2024, the Secretary, in consultation
20 and coordination with other Federal departments and
21 agencies that serve individuals with autism spectrum
22 disorder, shall prepare and submit to the Committee
23 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the
24 Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce
25 of the House of Representatives, and make publicly

1 *available, including through posting on the internet*
 2 *website of the Department of Health and Human*
 3 *Services, a progress report on activities related to au-*
 4 *tism spectrum disorder and other developmental dis-*
 5 *abilities. Such report shall include activities and re-*
 6 *search related to the entire population of individuals*
 7 *with autism spectrum disorder, including the full*
 8 *range of cognitive, communicative, behavioral, and*
 9 *adaptive functioning, as well as co-occurring condi-*
 10 *tions and needs for support and services, including*
 11 *care necessary for physical safety.”; and*

12 *(3) by adding at the end the following:*

13 “(c) *UPDATE ON YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUTH*
 14 *TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD.—Not later than 2 years*
 15 *after the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act of*
 16 *2024, the Secretary, in coordination with other Federal de-*
 17 *partments and agencies that serve individuals with autism*
 18 *spectrum disorder, shall prepare and submit to the Com-*
 19 *mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Represent-*
 20 *atives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and*
 21 *Pensions of the Senate an update to the report required pur-*
 22 *suant to section 6 of the Autism Cares Act of 2014 (Public*
 23 *Law 113–157) concerning young adults with autism spec-*
 24 *trum disorder and the challenges related to the transition*

1 *from existing school-based services to those services available*
 2 *during adulthood.*

3 “(d) *PROFESSIONAL JUDGMENT BUDGET.*—*For each*
 4 *fiscal year through fiscal year 2029, the Director of the Na-*
 5 *tional Institutes of Health, in coordination with other rel-*
 6 *evant agencies, as appropriate, shall prepare and submit,*
 7 *directly to the President for review and transmittal to Con-*
 8 *gress, after reasonable opportunity for comment, but with-*
 9 *out change, by the Secretary and the Interagency Autism*
 10 *Coordinating Committee established under section*
 11 *399CC(a), an annual budget estimate for carrying out the*
 12 *strategic plan developed and updated under section*
 13 *399CC(b)(5).”.*

14 (e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*Section*
 15 *399EE of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–*
 16 *4) is amended—*

17 (1) *in subsection (a), by striking “\$23,100,000*
 18 *for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-*
 19 *serting “\$28,100,000 for each of fiscal years 2025*
 20 *through 2029”;*

21 (2) *in subsection (b), by striking “\$50,599,000*
 22 *for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-*
 23 *serting “\$56,344,000 for each of fiscal years 2025*
 24 *through 2029”; and*

1 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “there are au-
2 thorized to be appropriated \$296,000,000 for each of
3 fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and inserting “there
4 is authorized to be appropriated \$341,000,000 for
5 each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029”.

Amend the title so as to read: “A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance and reauthorize activities and programs relating to autism spectrum disorder, and for other purposes.”.

Union Calendar No. 518

118TH CONGRESS
2^D Session

H. R. 7213

[Report No. 118–620]

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to [en-
hance activities of the National Institutes of
Health with respect to research on autism spec-
trum disorder and enhance programs relating to
autism / reauthorize certain programs with re-
spect to autism spectrum disorder?], and for
other purposes.

JULY 30, 2024

Reported with amendments, committed to the Committee
of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and or-
dered to be printed