

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8715

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a pilot program under which the Secretary enters into public-private partnerships with eligible entities to distribute to mothers of newborn infants newborn supply kits, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 12, 2024

Ms. LETLOW (for herself, Ms. SCHRIER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Ms. BARRAGÁN) 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 establish a pilot program under which the Secretary enters into public-private partnerships with eligible entities to distribute to mothers of newborn infants newborn supply kits, 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 “Newborns Essentials
5 Support Toolkit Act” or the “NEST Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NEWBORN SUPPLY KITS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
3 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
4 retary”) shall establish a pilot program under which the
5 Secretary will make grants or enter into cooperative agree-
6 ments with eligible entities to distribute to mothers of
7 newborn infants newborn supply kits.

8 (b) DISTRIBUTION CRITERIA.—An eligible entity that
9 receives a grant or enters into a cooperative agreement
10 under subsection (a) shall agree, as a condition on receiv-
11 ing such a grant or entering into such an agreement, that
12 in distributing newborn supply kits using funds received
13 through the pilot program under this section, the entity
14 shall—

15 (1) to the maximum extent practicable, ensure
16 the geographical diversity of the recipients of such
17 newborn supply kits;

18 (2) give priority to geographic areas with the
19 greatest need, such as maternal care deserts, rural
20 communities, and communities with the highest ma-
21 ternal mortality rates (such as the Delta region);
22 and

23 (3) give priority to mothers of newborn infants
24 whose family income does not exceed 185 percent of
25 the poverty line (as defined in section 673(2) of the

1 Community Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C.
2 9902(2))) for a family of the size involved.

3 (c) REPORTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
5 after the date on which the first grant or cooperative
6 agreement is awarded under subsection (a), the Sec-
7 retary shall submit to the appropriate committees of
8 Congress a report on the progress of the pilot pro-
9 gram under this section, including—

10 (A) the number of mothers served under
11 the pilot program (disaggregated by race, fam-
12 ily income level, and number of individuals in
13 the household);

14 (B) the regions in the United States in
15 which newborn supply kits are being distributed
16 through the pilot program;

17 (C) feedback from mothers who have re-
18 ceived newborn supply kits through the pilot
19 program; and

20 (D) such other information, as determined
21 necessary by the Secretary.

22 (2) FINAL REPORT.—At the conclusion of the
23 pilot program under this section, the Secretary shall
24 submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a
25 report—

1 (A) on the results of the pilot program
2 with respect to maternal and infant health out-
3 comes; and

4 (B) that includes the Secretary's rec-
5 ommendation on whether to extend or expand
6 the pilot program.

7 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

8 (1) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CON-
9 GRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Con-
10 gress” means—

11 (A) the Committee on Energy and Com-
12 merce of the House of Representatives;

13 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,
14 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate;

15 (C) the Committee on Appropriations of
16 the House of Representatives; and

17 (D) the Committee on Appropriations of
18 the Senate.

19 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
20 ty” means—

21 (A) a community-based organization;

22 (B) a hospital; or

23 (C) another organization serving mothers
24 and infants.

1 (3) NEWBORN SUPPLY KIT.—The term “new-
2 born supply kit” means a kit composed of essential
3 goods to help mothers recover from childbirth and
4 care for newborn infants that includes the following
5 items:

6 (A) Diapers, wipes, hygiene items, blan-
7 kets, and thermometers for newborn infants.

8 (B) Postpartum pads, lotion, cold packs,
9 breastfeeding supplies, information on the ma-
10 ternal mental health hotline, information about
11 Federal programs providing support to
12 postpartum women and children, such as the
13 special supplemental nutrition program for
14 women, infants, and children under section 17
15 of the Child Nutrition Act of 1966 (42 U.S.C.
16 1786), and evidence-based educational material
17 on the use of low-dose aspirin to address hyper-
18 tension, preeclampsia, and preterm birth.

19 (C) A blood pressure monitor.

20 (D) Other items necessary to support in-
21 fant and postpartum health (as determined by
22 the Secretary).

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

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