

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2686

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the economic impact and health outcomes associated with the response to the COVID–19 pandemic in the United States.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 27, 2023

Mr. BRAUN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the economic impact and health outcomes associated with the response to the COVID–19 pandemic in the United States.

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. ASSESSMENT OF COVID–19 MITIGATION POLI-**
4 **CIES.**

5 (a) GAO STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the
6 United States shall conduct a study on the economic im-
7 pact and health outcomes associated with the response to

1 the COVID–19 pandemic in the United States. Such study
2 shall include—

3 (1) a summary of strategies used by local gov-
4 ernmental entities, States, and the Federal Govern-
5 ment to contain and mitigate the spread of COVID–
6 19 during the public health emergency declared
7 under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act
8 (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020, including—

9 (A) limitations on large gatherings of peo-
10 ple;

11 (B) the closure of schools, businesses,
12 houses of worship, and other facilities;

13 (C) masking policies;

14 (D) testing policies; and

15 (E) vaccination policies;

16 (2) an analysis and review of the scientific evi-
17 dence related to the effectiveness of such strategies
18 in preventing or mitigating the spread of COVID–
19 19, including estimates of the burden of disease and
20 death that were avoided through such interventions;

21 (3) an analysis and review of the economic and
22 health impacts of such strategies, including impacts
23 related to mental and physical health and student
24 learning loss; and

1 (4) an accounting of Federal funding used to
2 implement such strategies.

3 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the
4 date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
5 of the United States shall submit a report on the study
6 under subsection (a) to the Committee on Health, Edu-
7 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Com-
8 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
9 resentatives. Such report shall include recommendations
10 based on the findings of the study conducted under sub-
11 section (a) regarding the impact of such strategies during
12 the COVID–19 public health emergency, including how to
13 improve future responses.

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