

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4592

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, to award grants to faith- or community-based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 18, 2024

Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Ms. BUTLER, and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, to award grants to faith- or community-based organizations to address persistent health inequities and chronic disease challenges.

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 “Health Equity Innova-
5 tion Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH EQUITY INNOVATION GRANT PROGRAM.**

2 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act
 3 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 399V-8. HEALTH EQUITY INNOVATION GRANT PRO-**
 6 **GRAM.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
 8 the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health (in
 9 this section referred to as the ‘Secretary’), may award
 10 grants to eligible entities to expand access to culturally
 11 and linguistically appropriate care, encourage innovation,
 12 and address persistent health inequities and chronic dis-
 13 ease challenges, including by—

14 “(1) paying the costs of necessary medical serv-
 15 ices, health screenings, tests, and other preventive
 16 services;

17 “(2) expanding access to care, such as by—

18 “(A) expanding access to health care and
 19 public health services;

20 “(B) expanding the diversity of types of
 21 health workers;

22 “(C) expanding the availability of cul-
 23 turally and linguistically appropriate services;
 24 and

1 “(D) addressing other social determinants
 2 of health and barriers to receiving timely and
 3 quality care;

4 “(3) supporting—

5 “(A) community health navigators;

6 “(B) community health workers (also
 7 known as ‘promotores de salud’);

8 “(C) peer support specialists;

9 “(D) community health representatives;
 10 and

11 “(E) other health care professionals, in-
 12 cluding those who work with faith- or commu-
 13 nity-based organizations as trusted messengers
 14 with lived experiences to support access and
 15 connection to care;

16 “(4) expanding the capacity of the eligible enti-
 17 ty; and

18 “(5) carrying out other programs that address
 19 social determinants of health.

20 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible for a grant
 21 under this section, an entity shall be a faith- or commu-
 22 nity-based organization that—

23 “(1) has demonstrated an ability to address
 24 chronic health disparities and health conditions in

1 communities disproportionately affected by such dis-
 2 parities and conditions; and

3 “(2) is located in a medically underserved com-
 4 munity or a designated health professional shortage
 5 area.

6 “(c) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION DE-
 7 FINED.—In this section, the term ‘community-based orga-
 8 nization’ has the meaning given the term in section 8101
 9 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

10 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
 12 appropriated to carry out this section—

13 “(A) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2024;

14 “(B) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

15 “(C) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

16 “(D) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

17 and

18 “(E) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2028.

19 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—Of the funds
 20 appropriated to carry out this section, not more than
 21 5 percent may be used by the Secretary for the ad-
 22 ministrative costs of carrying out this section.”.

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