

TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT TO REAUTHORIZE THE
STOP, OBSERVE, ASK, AND RESPOND TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS
TRAINING PROGRAM

MAY 22, 2024.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of
the Union and ordered to be printed

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, from the Committee on Energy and
Commerce, submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 7224]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 7224) to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

CONTENTS

Purpose and Summary	Page 1
Background and Need for Legislation	2
Committee Action	2
Committee Votes	2
Oversight Findings and Recommendations	4
New Budget Authority, Entitlement Authority, and Tax Expenditures	4
Congressional Budget Office Estimate	4
Federal Mandates Statement	4
Statement of General Performance Goals and Objectives	4
Duplication of Federal Programs	4
Related Committee and Subcommittee Hearings	4
Committee Cost Estimate	5
Earmark, Limited Tax Benefits, and Limited Tariff Benefits	5
Advisory Committee Statement	5
Applicability to Legislative Branch	5
Section-by-Section Analysis of the Legislation	5
Changes in Existing Law Made by the Bill, as Reported	5

PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 7224 reauthorizes the Stop, Observe, and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness training program for five fiscal years.

BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR LEGISLATION

Individuals who have experienced human trafficking oftentimes encounter a health care or social service provider at some point during or after their exploitation. The Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond (SOAR) to Health and Wellness Act was originally signed into law in 2018 and authorizes resources to help build capacity in local communities to identify and respond to the various needs of individuals who have experienced trafficking.¹

COMMITTEE ACTION

On February 14, 2024, the Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 7224. The title of the hearing was “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:

- Andy Shih, PhD, Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks;
- Corey Feist, JD, MBA, Co-Founder and CEO, Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes’ Foundation;
- Joanne Pike, DrPH, President and CEO, Alzheimer’s Association;
- Gordon Tomaselli, MD, Former President, American Heart Association; Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, Emeritus and Professor of Medicine, Albert Einstein College of Medicine; Adjunct Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine;
- Michelle Whitten, President, CEO, and Co-Founder, Global Down Syndrome Foundation;
- Randy Strozyk, President, American Ambulance Association; and
- Christina Annunziata, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President of Extramural Discovery Science, American Cancer Society.

On March 12, 2024, the Subcommittee on Health met in open markup session and forwarded H.R. 7224, without amendment, to the full Committee by a record vote of 24 yeas and 0 nays.

On March 20, 2024, the full Committee on Energy and Commerce met in open markup session and ordered H.R. 7224, without amendment, favorably reported to the House by a record vote of 45 yeas and 0 nays.

COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII requires the Committee to list the record votes on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. The following reflects the record votes taken during the Committee consideration:

¹Public Law 115–398: Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Act of 2018. <https://uscode.house.gov/statutes/pl/115/398.pdf>.

**COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
118TH CONGRESS
ROLL CALL VOTE # 15**

BILL: H.R. 7224, To reauthorize the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program

AMENDMENT: A motion by Chair Rodgers to order H.R. 7224 favorably reported to the House, without amendment (Final Passage)

DISPOSITION: **AGREED TO**, by a roll call vote of 45 yeas to 0 nays.

REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT	REPRESENTATIVE	YEAS	NAYS	PRESENT
Rep. Rodgers	X			Rep. Pallone	X		
Rep. Burgess	X			Rep. Eshoo	X		
Rep. Latta	X			Rep. DeGette	X		
Rep. Guthrie	X			Rep. Schakowsky	X		
Rep. Griffith	X			Rep. Matsui	X		
Rep. Bilirakis	X			Rep. Castor	X		
Rep. Bucshon	X			Rep. Sarbanes	X		
Rep. Hudson	X			Rep. Tonko	X		
Rep. Walberg	X			Rep. Clarke	X		
Rep. Carter	X			Rep. Cárdenas	X		
Rep. Duncan	X			Rep. Ruiz	X		
Rep. Palmer				Rep. Peters	X		
Rep. Dunn	X			Rep. Dingell			
Rep. Curtis	X			Rep. Veasey	X		
Rep. Lesko	X			Rep. Kuster			
Rep. Pence	X			Rep. Kelly			
Rep. Crenshaw	X			Rep. Barragán	X		
Rep. Joyce	X			Rep. Blunt Rochester			
Rep. Armstrong	X			Rep. Soto	X		
Rep. Weber	X			Rep. Craig	X		
Rep. Allen	X			Rep. Schrier	X		
Rep. Balderson	X			Rep. Trahan	X		
Rep. Fulcher	X			Rep. Fletcher	X		
Rep. Pfluger							
Rep. Harshbarger	X						
Rep. Miller-Meeks	X						
Rep. Cammack	X						
Rep. Obernolte	X						

03/20/2024

OVERSIGHT FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Pursuant to clause 2(b)(1) of rule X and clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee held a hearing and made findings that are reflected in this report.

NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(2) of rule XIII, the Committee finds that H.R. 7224 would result in no new or increased budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(3) of rule XIII, at the time this report was filed, the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 was not available.

FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

STATEMENT OF GENERAL PERFORMANCE GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is to support victims of human trafficking by ensuring communities have the resources available to provide appropriate care services.

DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 7224 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

RELATED COMMITTEE AND SUBCOMMITTEE HEARINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(6) of rule XIII, the following related hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 7224:

- February 14, 2024, the Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on H.R. 7224. The title of the hearing was “Legislative Proposals to Support Patients and Caregivers.” The Subcommittee received testimony from:
 - Andy Shih, PhD, Chief Science Officer, Autism Speaks;
 - Corey Feist, JD, MBA, Co-Founder and CEO, Dr. Lorna Breen Heroes’ Foundation;
 - Joanne Pike, DrPH, President and CEO, Alzheimer’s Association;
 - Gordon Tomaselli, MD, Former President, American Heart Association; Marilyn and Stanley M. Katz Dean, Emeritus and Professor of Medicine, Albert Einstein Col-

lege of Medicine; Adjunct Professor of Medicine, Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine;

- Michelle Whitten, President, CEO, and Co-Founder, Global Down Syndrome Foundation;
- Randy Strozyk, President, American Ambulance Association; and
- Christina Annunziata, MD, PhD, Senior Vice President of Extramural Discovery Science, American Cancer Society.

COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974. At the time this report was filed, the estimate was not available.

EARMARK, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 7224 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committees within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act were created by this legislation.

APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Reauthorization of the SOAR to health and wellness training program

Section 1 reauthorizes the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program through fiscal year 2029.

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (existing law proposed to be omitted is enclosed in black brackets, new matter is printed in italics, and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT

* * * * *

TITLE XII—TRAUMA CARE

* * * * *

Part E—Miscellaneous Programs

* * * * *

SEC. 1254. STOP, OBSERVE, ASK, AND RESPOND TO HEALTH AND WELLNESS TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a program to be known as the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program or the SOAR to Health and Wellness Training Program (in this section referred to as the “Program”) to provide training to health care and social service providers on human trafficking in accordance with this section.

(b) **ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Program shall include the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program’s activities existing on the day before the date of enactment of this section and the authorized initiatives described in paragraph (2).

(2) **AUTHORIZED INITIATIVES.**—The authorized initiatives of the Program shall include—

(A) engaging stakeholders, including victims of human trafficking and Federal, State, local, and tribal partners, to develop a flexible training module—

(i) for supporting activities under subsection (c); and

(ii) that adapts to changing needs, settings, health care providers, and social service providers;

(B) providing technical assistance to grantees related to implementing activities described in subsection (c) and reporting on any best practices identified by the grantees;

(C) developing a reliable methodology for collecting data, and reporting such data, on the number of human trafficking victims identified and served by grantees in a manner that, at a minimum, prevents disclosure of individually identifiable information consistent with all applicable privacy laws and regulations; and

(D) integrating, as appropriate, the training described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of subsection (c) with training programs, in effect on the date of enactment of this section, for health care and social service providers for victims of intimate partner violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse, child neglect, child maltreatment, and child sexual exploitation.

(c) **GRANTS.**—The Secretary may award grants to appropriate entities to train health care and social service providers to—

(1) identify potential human trafficking victims;

(2) implement best practices for working with law enforcement to report and facilitate communication with human trafficking victims, in accordance with all applicable Federal, State, local, and tribal laws, including legal confidentiality requirements for patients and health care and social service providers;

(3) implement best practices for referring such victims to appropriate health care, social, or victims service agencies or organizations; and

(4) provide such victims with coordinated, age-appropriate, culturally relevant, trauma-informed, patient-centered, and evidence-based care.

(d) CONSIDERATION IN AWARDING GRANTS.—The Secretary, in making awards under this section, shall give consideration to—

- (1) geography;
- (2) the demographics of the population to be served;
- (3) the predominant types of human trafficking cases involved; and
- (4) health care and social service provider profiles.

(e) DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall collect data and report on the following:

(A) The total number of entities that received a grant under this section.

(B) The total number and geographic distribution of health care and social service providers trained through the Program.

(2) INITIAL REPORT.—In addition to the data required to be collected under paragraph (1), for purposes of the initial report to be submitted under paragraph (3), the Secretary shall collect data on the total number of facilities and health care professional organizations that were operating under, and the total number of health care and social service providers trained through, the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training Program existing prior to the establishment of the Program under this section.

(3) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit an annual report to Congress on the data collected under this subsection in a manner that, at a minimum, prevents the disclosure of individually identifiable information consistent with all applicable privacy laws and regulations.

(f) SHARING BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall make available, on the Internet website of the Department of Health and Human Services, a description of the best practices and procedures used by entities that receive a grant for carrying out activities under this section.

(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “human trafficking” has the meaning given the term “severe forms of trafficking in persons” as defined in section 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act, \$4,000,000 for each of [fiscal years 2020 through 2024] *fiscal years 2025 through 2029*.

* * * * *