

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2029

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish and implement a birth defects prevention, risk reduction, and public awareness program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2011

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. BARROW, Mr. BILBRAY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. ENGEL, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HALL, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. LANCE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MATHESON, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. McCAUL, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. MOORE, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. RUSH, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SESSIONS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, to establish and implement a birth defects prevention, risk reduction, and public awareness program.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Birth Defects Preven-
3 tion, Risk Reduction, and Awareness Act of 2011”.

4 **SEC. 2. BIRTH DEFECTS PREVENTION, RISK REDUCTION,**
5 **AND AWARENESS.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish and
7 implement a birth defects prevention and public awareness
8 program, consisting of the activities described in sub-
9 sections (c) and (d).

10 (b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act:

11 (1) The term “pregnancy and breastfeeding in-
12 formation services” includes only—

13 (A) information services to provide accu-
14 rate, evidence-based, clinical information re-
15 garding maternal exposures during pregnancy
16 that may be associated with birth defects or
17 other health risks, such as exposures to medica-
18 tions, chemicals, infections, foodborne patho-
19 gens, illnesses, nutrition, or lifestyle factors;

20 (B) information services to provide accu-
21 rate, evidence-based, clinical information re-
22 garding maternal exposures during
23 breastfeeding that may be associated with
24 health risks to a breast-fed infant, such as ex-
25 posures to medications, chemicals, infections,

1 foodborne pathogens, illnesses, nutrition, or life-
2 style factors;

3 (C) the provision of accurate, evidence-
4 based information weighing risks of exposures
5 during breastfeeding against the benefits of
6 breastfeeding; and

7 (D) the provision of information described
8 in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) through coun-
9 selors, Web sites, fact sheets, telephonic or elec-
10 tronic communication, community outreach ef-
11 forts, or other appropriate means.

12 (2) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
13 of Health and Human Services, acting through the
14 Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
15 vention.

16 (c) NATIONWIDE MEDIA CAMPAIGN.—In carrying out
17 subsection (a), the Secretary shall conduct or support a
18 nationwide media campaign to increase awareness among
19 health care providers and at-risk populations about preg-
20 nancy and breastfeeding information services.

21 (d) GRANTS FOR PREGNANCY AND BREASTFEEDING
22 INFORMATION SERVICES.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection
24 (a), the Secretary shall award grants to State or re-

1 regional agencies or organizations for any of the fol-
2 lowing:

3 (A) INFORMATION SERVICES.—The provi-
4 sion of, or campaigns to increase awareness
5 about, pregnancy and breastfeeding information
6 services.

7 (B) SURVEILLANCE AND RESEARCH.—The
8 conduct or support of—

9 (i) surveillance of or research on—

10 (I) maternal exposures and ma-
11 ternal health conditions that may in-
12 fluence the risk of birth defects, pre-
13 maturity, or other adverse pregnancy
14 outcomes; and

15 (II) maternal exposures that may
16 influence health risks to a breastfed
17 infant; or

18 (ii) networking to facilitate surveil-
19 lance or research described in this sub-
20 paragraph.

21 (2) PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN STATES.—The
22 Secretary, in making any grant under this sub-
23 section, shall give preference to States, otherwise
24 equally qualified, that have or had a pregnancy and

1 breastfeeding information service in place on or after
2 January 1, 2006.

3 (3) MATCHING FUNDS.—The Secretary may
4 only award a grant under this subsection to a State
5 or regional agency or organization that agrees, with
6 respect to the costs to be incurred in carrying out
7 the grant activities, to make available (directly or
8 through donations from public or private entities)
9 non-Federal funds toward such costs in an amount
10 equal to not less than 25 percent of the amount of
11 the grant.

12 (4) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall en-
13 sure that activities funded through a grant under
14 this subsection are coordinated, to the maximum ex-
15 tent practicable, with other birth defects prevention
16 and environmental health activities of the Federal
17 Government, including with respect to pediatric envi-
18 ronmental health specialty units and children’s envi-
19 ronmental health centers.

20 (e) EVALUATION.—In furtherance of the program
21 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide for an
22 evaluation of pregnancy and breastfeeding information
23 services to identify efficient and effective models of—

24 (1) providing information;

- 1 (2) raising awareness and increasing knowledge
2 about birth defects prevention measures;
3 (3) modifying risk behaviors; or
4 (4) other outcome measures as determined ap-
5 propriate by the Secretary.

6 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
7 out this Act, there are authorized to be appropriated
8 \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2012, \$6,000,000 for fiscal year
9 2013, \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2014, \$8,000,000 for fis-
10 cal year 2015, and \$9,000,000 for fiscal year 2016.

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