

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9098

To provide for surveillance of *Clostridioides difficile*, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 23, 2024

Ms. CLARKE of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for surveillance of *Clostridioides difficile*, 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; FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Peggy Lillis *Clostridioides difficile* Inclusion Act”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) *Clostridioides difficile* (referred to in this
8 section as “*C.diff*”) is a bacterium that can cause a
9 range of symptoms from diarrhea to life-threatening
10 inflammation of the colon.

1 (2) *C. diff* infections are a significant public
2 health concern, leading to substantial morbidity,
3 mortality, and healthcare costs in the United States.
4 An estimated 500,000 infections, including 20,000
5 in children, occur in the United States each year,
6 causing an estimated 30,000 deaths. Because *C.diff*
7 infections is not mandatorily reported by outpatient
8 facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and others, this
9 number likely does not account for the full burden
10 of *C. diff* infections. The estimated attributable cost
11 of *C.diff* infections in the United States is
12 \$1,000,000,000.

13 (3) Tracking and monitoring of *C. diff* cases is
14 essential for understanding the disease epidemiology,
15 implementing effective prevention and control strate-
16 gies, and ensuring public health and health care pro-
17 viders have to necessary resources to improve health
18 outcomes, address health disparities, and reduce
19 mortality. While *C. diff* is more commonly found in
20 White patients, Black patients tend to have worse
21 outcomes—including greater risk for severe *C.diff* in-
22 fections and greater risk for mortality.

23 (c) PURPOSES.—The purpose of this Act is to require
24 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to include

1 *C.diff* as a Nationally Notifiable Infectious Disease and
2 Condition.

3 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING SURVEILLANCE OF *CLOSTRIDIUM***
4 ***DIFFICILE*.**

5 (a) INCLUSION AS NATIONALLY NOTIFIABLE DIS-
6 EASE OR CONDITION.—Not later than 180 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health
8 and Human Services, acting through the Director of the
9 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (in this sec-
10 tion referred to as the “Secretary”) shall add
11 *Clostridioides difficile* (referred to in this section as
12 “*C.diff*”) to the list of nationally notifiable diseases or con-
13 ditions published by the Council of State and Territorial
14 Epidemiologists and the Centers for Disease Control and
15 Prevention.

16 (b) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

17 (1) STATES.—The Secretary shall, pursuant to
18 section 301 of the Public Health Service Act (42
19 U.S.C. 241), issue regulations requiring each State
20 to collect and report data on confirmed cases of
21 *C.diff* to the Secretary.

22 (2) REPORTING ENTITIES.—Any entity required
23 to submit information to the Secretary, pursuant to
24 such section 301, with respect to cases of a nation-
25 ally notifiable disease or condition, including a

1 health care facility or laboratory, shall submit such
2 information to the Secretary with respect to cases of
3 *C.diff*.

4 (3) DATA ELEMENTS.—The Secretary shall es-
5 tablish standardized data elements, including demo-
6 graphic information, clinical information, and lab-
7 oratory results, for the reporting of cases of *C.diff*
8 under this subsection.

9 (c) SEVERABILITY.—If any provision of this Act, or
10 the application thereof to any person or circumstances, is
11 held invalid, the remainder of the Act and the application
12 of the provisions to other persons or circumstances shall
13 not be affected.

14 (d) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
15 “State” means each of the several States, the District of
16 Columbia, each territory or possession of the United
17 States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

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