

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2864

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 18, 2014

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mrs. BOXER, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a national strategic action plan to assist health professionals in preparing for and responding to the public health effects of climate change, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Climate Change Health
5 Protection and Promotion Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON PUBLIC HEALTH AND CLI-**
2 **MATE CHANGE.**

3 It is the sense of Congress that the Federal Govern-
4 ment, in cooperation with international, State, tribal, and
5 local governments, concerned public and private organiza-
6 tions, and citizens, should use all practicable means and
7 measures—

8 (1) to assist the efforts of public health and
9 health care professionals, first responders, States,
10 tribes, municipalities, and local communities to in-
11 corporate measures to prepare health systems to re-
12 spond to the impacts of climate change;

13 (2) to ensure—

14 (A) that the Nation's health professionals
15 have sufficient information to prepare for and
16 respond to the adverse health impacts of cli-
17 mate change;

18 (B) the utility and value of scientific re-
19 search in advancing understanding of—

20 (i) the health impacts of climate
21 change; and

22 (ii) strategies to prepare for and re-
23 spond to the health impacts of climate
24 change;

25 (C) the identification of communities vul-
26 nerable to the health effects of climate change

1 and the development of strategic response plans
2 to be carried out by health professionals for
3 those communities;

4 (D) the improvement of health status and
5 health equity through efforts to prepare for and
6 respond to climate change; and

7 (E) the inclusion of health policy in the de-
8 velopment of climate change responses;

9 (3) to encourage further research, interdiscipli-
10 nary partnership, and collaboration among stake-
11 holders in order to—

12 (A) understand and monitor the health im-
13 pacts of climate change; and

14 (B) improve public health knowledge and
15 response strategies to climate change;

16 (4) to enhance preparedness activities, and pub-
17 lic health infrastructure, relating to climate change
18 and health;

19 (5) to encourage each and every American to
20 learn about the impacts of climate change on health;
21 and

22 (6) to assist the efforts of developing nations to
23 incorporate measures to prepare health systems to
24 respond to the impacts of climate change.

1 **SEC. 3. RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER LAWS.**

2 Nothing in this Act limits the authority provided to
3 or responsibility conferred on any Federal department or
4 agency by any provision of any law (including regulations)
5 or authorizes any violation of any provision of any law (in-
6 cluding regulations), including any health, energy, envi-
7 ronmental, transportation, or any other law or regulation.

8 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN.**

9 (a) REQUIREMENT.—

10 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, not later
11 than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act,
12 on the basis of the best available science, and in con-
13 sultation pursuant to paragraph (2), shall publish a
14 strategic action plan to assist health professionals in
15 preparing for and responding to the impacts of cli-
16 mate change on public health in the United States
17 and other nations, particularly developing nations.

18 (2) CONSULTATION.—In developing or making
19 any revision to the national strategic action plan, the
20 Secretary shall—

21 (A) consult with the Director of the Cen-
22 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, the
23 Administrator of the Environmental Protection
24 Agency, the Director of the National Institutes
25 of Health, the Secretary of Energy, other ap-
26 propriate Federal agencies, Indian tribes, State

1 and local governments, public health organiza-
2 tions, and scientists, and other interested stake-
3 holders; and

4 (B) provide opportunity for public input.

5 (b) CONTENTS.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
7 through the Director of the Centers for Disease
8 Control and Prevention, shall assist health profes-
9 sionals in preparing for and responding effectively
10 and efficiently to the health effects of climate change
11 through measures including—

12 (A) developing, improving, integrating, and
13 maintaining domestic and international disease
14 surveillance systems and monitoring capacity to
15 respond to health-related effects of climate
16 change, including on topics addressing—

17 (i) water, food, and vector-borne infec-
18 tious diseases and climate change;

19 (ii) pulmonary effects, including re-
20 sponses to aeroallergens;

21 (iii) cardiovascular effects, including
22 impacts of temperature extremes;

23 (iv) air pollution health effects, includ-
24 ing heightened sensitivity to air pollution;

25 (v) hazardous algal blooms;

1 (vi) mental and behavioral health im-
2 pacts of climate change;

3 (vii) the health of refugees, displaced
4 persons, and vulnerable communities;

5 (viii) the implications for communities
6 vulnerable to health effects of climate
7 change, as well as strategies for responding
8 to climate change within these commu-
9 nities; and

10 (ix) local and community-based health
11 interventions for climate-related health im-
12 pacts;

13 (B) creating tools for predicting and moni-
14 toring the public health effects of climate
15 change on the international, national, regional,
16 State, and local levels, and providing technical
17 support to assist in their implementation;

18 (C) developing public health communica-
19 tions strategies and interventions for extreme
20 weather events and disaster response situations;

21 (D) identifying and prioritizing commu-
22 nities and populations vulnerable to the health
23 effects of climate change, and determining ac-
24 tions and communication strategies that should
25 be taken to inform and protect these commu-

1 nities and populations from the health effects of
2 climate change;

3 (E) developing health communication, pub-
4 lic education, and outreach programs aimed at
5 public health and health care professionals, and
6 the general public, to promote preparedness and
7 response strategies relating to climate change
8 and public health, including the identification of
9 greenhouse gas reduction behaviors that are
10 health-promoting;

11 (F) developing academic and regional cen-
12 ters of excellence devoted to—

13 (i) researching relationships between
14 climate change and health;

15 (ii) expanding and training the public
16 health workforce to strengthen the capacity
17 of such workforce to respond to and pre-
18 pare for the health effects of climate
19 change;

20 (iii) creating and supporting academic
21 fellowships focusing on the health effects
22 of climate change; and

23 (iv) training senior health ministry of-
24 ficials from developing nations to strength-
25 en the capacity of such nations to—

1 (I) prepare for and respond to
2 the health effects of climate change;
3 and

4 (II) build an international net-
5 work of public health professionals
6 with the necessary climate change
7 knowledge base;

8 (G) using techniques, including health im-
9 pact assessments, to assess various climate
10 change public health preparedness and response
11 strategies on international, national, State, re-
12 gional, tribal, and local levels, and make rec-
13 ommendations as to the strategies that best
14 protect the public health;

15 (H)(i) assisting in the development, imple-
16 mentation, and support of State, regional, trib-
17 al, and local preparedness, communication, and
18 response plans (including with respect to the
19 health departments of such entities) to antici-
20 pate and reduce the health threats of climate
21 change; and

22 (ii) acting through the Director of the Cen-
23 ters for Disease Control and Prevention or an
24 appropriate Federal agency, pursuing collabo-

1 rative efforts to develop, integrate, and imple-
2 ment such plans;

3 (I) acting through the Director of the Cen-
4 ters for Disease Control and Prevention or an
5 appropriate Federal agency, creating a program
6 to advance research as it relates to the effects
7 of climate change on public health across Fed-
8 eral agencies, including research to—

9 (i) identify and assess climate change
10 health effects preparedness and response
11 strategies;

12 (ii) prioritize critical public health in-
13 frastructure projects related to potential
14 climate change impacts that affect public
15 health; and

16 (iii) coordinate preparedness for cli-
17 mate change health impacts, including the
18 development of modeling and forecasting
19 tools;

20 (J) providing technical assistance for the
21 development, implementation, and support of
22 preparedness and response plans to anticipate
23 and reduce the health threats of climate change
24 in developing nations; and

1 (K) carrying out other activities deter-
2 mined appropriate by the Secretary to plan for
3 and respond to the impacts of climate change
4 on public health.

5 (c) REVISION.—The Secretary shall revise the na-
6 tional strategic action plan not later than July 1, 2017,
7 and every 4 years thereafter, to reflect new information
8 collected pursuant to implementation of the national stra-
9 tegic action plan and otherwise, including information
10 on—

11 (1) the status of critical environmental health
12 parameters and related human health impacts;

13 (2) the impacts of climate change on public
14 health; and

15 (3) advances in the development of strategies
16 for preparing for and responding to the impacts of
17 climate change on public health.

18 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

19 (1) IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH HHS.—The
20 Secretary shall exercise the Secretary’s authority
21 under this Act and other Federal statutes to achieve
22 the goals and measures of the national strategic ac-
23 tion plan.

24 (2) OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND
25 INITIATIVES.—The Secretary and Federal officials of

1 other relevant Federal agencies shall administer
2 public health programs and initiatives authorized by
3 statutes other than this Act, subject to the require-
4 ments of such statutes, in a manner designed to
5 achieve the goals of the national strategic action
6 plan.

7 (3) CDC.—In furtherance of the national stra-
8 tegic action plan, the Director of the Centers for
9 Disease Control and Prevention shall—

10 (A) conduct scientific research to assist
11 health professionals in preparing for and re-
12 sponding to the impacts of climate change on
13 public health;

14 (B) provide funding for—

15 (i) research on the health effects of
16 climate change; and

17 (ii) preparedness planning on the
18 international, national, State, regional, and
19 local levels to respond to or reduce the bur-
20 den of health effects of climate change;
21 and

22 (C) carry out other activities determined
23 appropriate by the Director to prepare for and
24 respond to the impacts of climate change on
25 public health.

1 **SEC. 5. ADVISORY BOARD.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish
3 a permanent science advisory board comprised of not less
4 than 10 and not more than 20 members.

5 (b) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—The Secretary
6 shall appoint the members of the science advisory board
7 from among individuals who—

8 (1) are recommended by the President of the
9 National Academy of Sciences; and

10 (2) have expertise in public health and human
11 services, climate change, and other relevant dis-
12 ciplines.

13 (c) FUNCTIONS.—The science advisory board shall—

14 (1) provide scientific and technical advice and
15 recommendations to the Secretary on the domestic
16 and international impacts of climate change on pub-
17 lic health, populations and regions particularly vul-
18 nerable to the effects of climate change, and strate-
19 gies and mechanisms to prepare for and respond to
20 the impacts of climate change on public health; and

21 (2) advise the Secretary regarding the best
22 science available for purposes of issuing the national
23 strategic action plan.

24 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

25 (a) NEEDS ASSESSMENT.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall seek to
2 enter into, by not later than 6 months after the date
3 of enactment of this Act, an agreement with the Na-
4 tional Research Council and the Institute of Medi-
5 cine to complete a report that—

6 (A) assesses the needs for health profes-
7 sionals to prepare for and respond to climate
8 change impacts on public health; and

9 (B) recommends programs to meet those
10 needs.

11 (2) SUBMISSION.—The agreement under para-
12 graph (1) shall require the completed report to be
13 submitted to Congress and the Secretary and made
14 publicly available not later than 1 year after the
15 date of the agreement.

16 (b) CLIMATE CHANGE HEALTH PROTECTION AND
17 PROMOTION REPORTS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall offer to
19 enter into, not later than 6 months after the submis-
20 sion of the report under subsection (a)(2), an agree-
21 ment with the National Research Council and the
22 Institute of Medicine, under which the National Re-
23 search Council and the Institute of Medicine will
24 prepare periodic reports to aid health professionals

1 in preparing for and responding to the adverse
2 health effects of climate change that—

3 (A) review scientific developments on
4 health impacts of climate change; and

5 (B) recommend changes to the national
6 strategic action plan.

7 (2) SUBMISSION.—The agreement under para-
8 graph (1) shall require a report to be submitted to
9 Congress and the Secretary and made publicly avail-
10 able not later than July 1, 2016, and every 4 years
11 thereafter.

12 **SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) HEALTH IMPACT ASSESSMENT.—The term
15 “health impact assessment” means a combination of
16 procedures, methods, and tools by which a policy,
17 program, or project may be judged as to its potential
18 effects on the health of a population, and the dis-
19 tribution of those effects within the population.

20 (2) NATIONAL STRATEGIC ACTION PLAN.—The
21 term “national strategic action plan” means the
22 plan issued and revised under section 4.

23 (3) SECRETARY.—Unless otherwise specified,
24 the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health
25 and Human Services.

1 **SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
3 priated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this
4 Act.

5 (b) APPROPRIATIONS TO HHS.—All funds appro-
6 priated to carry out this Act shall be appropriated to the
7 Secretary.

8 (c) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS BY HHS.—In carrying
9 out this Act, the Secretary may make funds appropriated
10 pursuant to this section available to—

11 (1) other departments, agencies, and offices of
12 the Federal Government;

13 (2) foreign, State, tribal, and local govern-
14 ments; and

15 (3) such other entities as the Secretary deter-
16 mines appropriate.

17 (d) SUPPLEMENT, NOT REPLACE.—It is the intent
18 of Congress that funds appropriated to carry out this Act
19 should be used to supplement, and not replace, existing
20 sources of funding for public health.

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