

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 406

To establish the Public Health Information and Communications Advisory Committee for purposes of providing recommendations and reports, and to support educational initiatives on communication and dissemination of information during public health emergencies.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

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

A BILL

To establish the Public Health Information and Communications Advisory Committee for purposes of providing recommendations and reports, and to support educational initiatives on communication and dissemination of information during public health emergencies.

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 “Promoting Public
5 Health Information Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. STRENGTHENING PUBLIC HEALTH COMMUNICA-**
2 **TION.**

3 Section 319F of the Public Health Service Act (42
4 U.S.C. 247d-6) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (b), to read as follows:

6 “(b) PUBLIC HEALTH INFORMATION AND COMMU-
7 NICATIONS ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
9 lish an advisory committee to be known as the Pub-
10 lic Health Information and Communications Advi-
11 sory Committee (referred to in this subsection as the
12 ‘Advisory Committee’).

13 “(2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall
14 make recommendations to the Secretary and report
15 on—

16 “(A) critical aspects of communication and
17 dissemination of scientific and evidence-based
18 public health information during public health
19 emergencies, including—

20 “(i) the role and impact of misin-
21 formation on the response to such public
22 health emergencies;

23 “(ii) the role of risk communication
24 before and during such public health emer-
25 gencies; and

1 “(iii) other relevant factors, as the
2 Secretary determines appropriate;

3 “(B) information from academic institu-
4 tions, community-based organizations, and
5 other nongovernmental organizations related to
6 evidence-based or evidence-informed strategies
7 and best practices to effectively communicate
8 and disseminate such information; and

9 “(C) strategies to improve communication
10 and dissemination of scientific and evidence-
11 based public health information to the public,
12 and, as appropriate, to address misinformation
13 during public health emergencies, including
14 strategies to—

15 “(i) identify the most effective meth-
16 ods for the dissemination of information
17 during a public health emergency;

18 “(ii) determine best practices and
19 communicate information to populations
20 that may be impacted by such misinforma-
21 tion; and

22 “(iii) adapt approaches for the dis-
23 semination of information, as appropriate,
24 to address emerging trends related to mis-
25 information.

1 “(3) COMPOSITION.—The Advisory Committee
2 shall be composed of—

3 “(A) appropriate Federal officials, ap-
4 pointed by the Secretary, who shall serve as
5 nonvoting members; and

6 “(B) individuals, appointed by the Sec-
7 retary, with expertise in public health, medicine,
8 communications, related technology, psychology,
9 national security, and other areas, as the Sec-
10 retary determines appropriate, who shall serve
11 as voting members.

12 “(4) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall re-
13 view the recommendations of the Advisory Com-
14 mittee and, not later than 180 days after receipt of
15 the report under paragraph (2), shall submit to the
16 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
17 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy
18 and Commerce of the House of Representatives a re-
19 port describing any actions planned by the Secretary
20 related to the communication and dissemination of
21 scientific and evidence-based public health informa-
22 tion, including addressing misinformation, as appro-
23 priate.

1 “(5) TERMINATION.—The Advisory Committee
2 shall terminate 4 years after the date of enactment
3 of the Promoting Public Health Information Act.”;

4 (2) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
5 section (g);

6 (3) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(f) EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
10 assistance for the development of evidence-based ini-
11 tiatives to promote fact-based public health and
12 medical science information to the public and edu-
13 cate the public on how to identify misinformation,
14 disinformation, and credible information.

15 “(2) CONSULTATION.—In developing the initia-
16 tives under this subsection, the Secretary shall con-
17 sult with—

18 “(A) the Public Health Information and
19 Communications Advisory Committee estab-
20 lished under subsection (b);

21 “(B) experts in the fields of public health
22 and medicine, communication, technology, be-
23 havioral science, and other relevant disciplines
24 as appropriate; and

1 “(C) relevant Federal agencies, as appro-
2 priate.

3 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The initiatives estab-
4 lished under this subsection shall—

5 “(A) be an evidence-based or evidence-in-
6 formed media and public engagement initiative
7 that includes partnerships with national and
8 local organizations;

9 “(B) ensure that official scientific and
10 public health guidance is accessible and commu-
11 nicated effectively to the public with specific
12 focus on populations that are underserved or
13 with low health literacy; and

14 “(C) ensure that activities are tailored to-
15 wards subgroups that are being targeted for
16 health misinformation and disinformation, or
17 are especially susceptible to health misinforma-
18 tion and disinformation, in a culturally- and lin-
19 guistically-appropriate manner.”; and

20 (4) by adding at the end of subsection (g), as
21 so redesignated, the following:

22 “(3) FUNDING FOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE AND
23 EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES.—There are authorized
24 to be appropriated \$45,000,000 for each of fiscal

1 years 2023 through 2027 for purposes of carrying
2 out subsections (b) and (f).”.

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