

Calendar No. 504

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 4762**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs and research relating to autism, and for other purposes.

 IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 24, 2024

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

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Reported by Mr. SANDERS, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs and research relating to autism, 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 “Autism Collaboration,
5 Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of
6 2024” or the “Autism CARES Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAMS RELATING TO AUTISM.**

2 (a) **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE**
 3 **AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.**—Section 399AA of the Public
 4 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “tribe, or
 6 a tribal” and inserting “Tribe, or a Tribal”;

7 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

8 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
 9 “TRIBE; TRIBAL” and inserting “TRIBE; TRIB-
 10 AL”;

11 (B) by striking “tribe” and inserting
 12 “Tribe”; and

13 (C) by striking “tribal” and inserting
 14 “Tribal”; and

15 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “2024” and
 16 inserting “2029”.

17 (b) **AUTISM EDUCATION, EARLY DETECTION, AND**
 18 **INTERVENTION.**—Section 399BB of the Public Health
 19 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–1) is amended—

20 (1) in subsections (b)(1) and (e), by striking
 21 “culturally competent” each place it appears and in-
 22 serting “culturally and linguistically appropriate”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “screen-
 25 ing” each place it appears and inserting
 26 “screening and diagnostic”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “higher
2 risk” and inserting “increased likelihood”; and

3 (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “higher
4 risk” and inserting “increased likelihood”;

5 (3) in subsection (e)(2), by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
8 after the date of enactment of the Autism
9 CARES Act of 2024, the Secretary shall submit
10 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
11 and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee
12 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives a report that examines the need for
14 developmental-behavioral pediatricians and the
15 feasibility of expanding the developmental-be-
16 havioral pediatrician training programs de-
17 scribed in subparagraph (A).”;

18 (4) by amending subsection (f) to read as fol-
19 lows:

20 “(f) INTERVENTION.—The Secretary shall promote
21 research, through grants or contracts, which may include
22 grants or contracts to research centers or networks, to—

23 “(1) develop and evaluate evidence-based prac-
24 tices and interventions to improve outcomes for indi-
25 viduals with autism spectrum disorder or other de-

1 velopmental disabilities by addressing physical and
 2 behavioral health and communication needs of such
 3 individuals across the lifespan;

4 “(2) develop guidelines for such evidence-based
 5 interventions; and

6 “(3) disseminate information related to such
 7 evidence-based practices and interventions and
 8 guidelines.”; and

9 (5) in subsection (g), by striking “2024” and
 10 inserting “2029”.

11 (e) INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COM-
 12 MITTEE.—Section 399CC of the Public Health Service Act
 13 (42 U.S.C. 280i-2) is amended—

14 (1) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “develop
 16 a summary of” and inserting “summarize, on
 17 an annual basis,”;

18 (B) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “pro-
 19 posed budgetary requirements” and inserting
 20 “a professional judgment of anticipated budg-
 21 etary needs”; and

22 (C) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “an
 23 annual” and inserting “a biennial”; and

24 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “2024” and
 25 inserting “2029”.

1 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Section 399DD of the
 2 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i-3) is amend-
 3 ed—

4 (1) by striking “2019” each place it appears
 5 and inserting “2024”;

6 (2) in subsection (a)(1)—

7 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
 8 “IN GENERAL” and inserting “IN GENERAL”;

9 (B) by striking “Health, Education, Labor,
 10 and Pensions Committee of the Senate and the
 11 Energy and Commerce Committee” and insert-
 12 ing “Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
 13 and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee
 14 on Energy and Commerce”; and

15 (C) by striking “Internet Web site” and
 16 inserting “website”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(e) UPDATE ON YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUTH
 19 TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD.—Not later than 2 years
 20 after the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act
 21 of 2024, the Secretary, in coordination with other Federal
 22 departments and agencies that serve individuals with au-
 23 tism spectrum disorder, shall prepare and submit to the
 24 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
 25 the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce

1 of the House of Representatives an update to the report
2 required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, as
3 added by section 6 of the Autism CARES Act of 2014
4 and in effect before the date of enactment of the Autism
5 CARES Act of 2019, concerning young adults with autism
6 spectrum disorder and the challenges related to the transi-
7 tion from existing school-based services to services avail-
8 able during adulthood.”.

9 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
10 399EE of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i-
11 4) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$23,100,000
13 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-
14 serting “\$28,100,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
15 through 2029”;

16 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$50,599,000
17 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-
18 serting “\$56,344,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
19 through 2029”; and

20 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “\$296,000,000
21 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-
22 serting “\$306,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
23 through 2029”.

1 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION, INTENSIFICATION, AND COORDINA-**
 2 **TION OF ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL INSTI-**
 3 **TUTES OF HEALTH WITH RESPECT TO RE-**
 4 **SEARCH ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.**

5 Section 409C of the Public Health Service Act (42
 6 U.S.C. 284g) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) by striking “including pathology”
 10 and inserting “such as pathology”; and

11 (ii) by inserting “psychiatry, psy-
 12 chology, gerontology, developmental behav-
 13 ioral pediatrics, audiology,” after “toxi-
 14 eology,”; and

15 (B) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this
 17 section, the Director shall take into consideration
 18 the various needs of individuals with autism spec-
 19 trum disorder with respect to services and supports
 20 and addressing co-occurring conditions.”; and

21 (2) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “geron-
 23 tology,” after “behavioral psychology,”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “pe-
 25 riod of” and inserting “period”.

1 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO**
 2 **COMMUNICATION TOOLS.**

3 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Health and
 4 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
 5 retary”) may, at the request of a State, Indian Tribe or
 6 Tribal organization, locality, or territory, provide training
 7 and technical assistance to such jurisdiction on the man-
 8 ner in which Federal funding administered by the Sec-
 9 retary may be used to provide individuals with autism
 10 spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities
 11 with access to evidence-based services, tools, and tech-
 12 nologies that support communication needs.

13 (b) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—The Secretary shall annually
 14 prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Edu-
 15 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Com-
 16 mittee on Education and the Workforce and the Com-
 17 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
 18 resentatives a report summarizing any technical assistance
 19 provided by the Secretary in the preceding fiscal year
 20 under subsection (a) and any advancements in the devel-
 21 opment or evaluation of such evidence-based services,
 22 tools, and technologies.

23 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

24 *This Act may be cited as the “Autism Collaboration,*
 25 *Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of*
 26 *2024” or the “Autism CARES Act of 2024”.*

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAMS RELATING TO AUTISM.**

2 (a) *DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE*
 3 *AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.*—Section 399AA of the Public
 4 *Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i) is amended—*

5 (1) *in subsection (a)(3), by striking “tribe, or a*
 6 *tribal” and inserting “Tribe, or a Tribal”;*

7 (2) *in subsection (d)(1)—*

8 (A) *in the paragraph heading, by striking*
 9 *“TRIBE; TRIBAL” and inserting “TRIBE; TRIB-*
 10 *AL”;*

11 (B) *by striking “tribe” and inserting*
 12 *“Tribe”;* and

13 (C) *by striking “tribal” and inserting*
 14 *“Tribal”;* and

15 (3) *in subsection (e), by striking “2024” and in-*
 16 *serting “2029”.*

17 (b) *AUTISM EDUCATION, EARLY DETECTION, AND*
 18 *INTERVENTION.*—Section 399BB of the Public Health Serv-
 19 *ice Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–1) is amended—*

20 (1) *in subsections (b)(1) and (c), by striking*
 21 *“culturally competent” each place it appears and in-*
 22 *serting “culturally and linguistically appropriate”;*

23 (2) *in subsection (b)—*

24 (A) *in paragraph (2), by striking “screen-*
 25 *ing” each place it appears and inserting “screen-*
 26 *ing and diagnostic”;*

1 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “higher
2 risk” and inserting “increased likelihood”; and

3 (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “higher
4 risk” and inserting “increased likelihood”;

5 (3) in subsection (e)—

6 (A) in paragraph (1)—

7 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
8 graph (A), by inserting “and strengthen the
9 capacity of” after “expand”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (I) by striking “in States that do
12 not have such a program;” and insert-
13 ing a semicolon; and

14 (II) by striking “expand existing
15 or develop new” and inserting “expand
16 and strengthen the capacity of existing,
17 or, in States that do not have such a
18 program, develop new,”; and

19 (iii) in subparagraph (B)(v), by in-
20 serting “or other providers, as applicable”
21 before the semicolon; and

22 (iv) by amending subparagraph (C) to
23 read as follows:

24 “(C) program sites—

1 “(i) provide culturally and linguis-
2 tically appropriate services;

3 “(ii) take a multidisciplinary ap-
4 proach and have experience working with
5 underserved populations; and

6 “(iii) identify opportunities to partner
7 with community-based organizations to ex-
8 pand the capacity of communities to serve
9 individuals with autism spectrum disorder
10 or other developmental disabilities.”; and

11 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
12 the following:

13 “(C) *REPORT.*—Not later than 2 years after
14 the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act
15 of 2024, the Secretary shall submit to the Com-
16 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
17 sions of the Senate and the Committee on En-
18 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
19 tives a report that examines the need for develop-
20 mental-behavioral pediatricians and the feasi-
21 bility of expanding the developmental-behavioral
22 pediatrician training programs described in sub-
23 paragraph (A).”;

24 (4) by amending subsection (f) to read as follows:

1 “(f) *INTERVENTION.*—*The Secretary shall promote re-*
 2 *search, through grants or contracts, which may include*
 3 *grants or contracts to research centers or networks, to—*

4 “(1) *develop and evaluate evidence-based prac-*
 5 *tices and interventions to improve outcomes for indi-*
 6 *viduals with autism spectrum disorder or other devel-*
 7 *opmental disabilities by addressing physical and be-*
 8 *havioral health and communication needs of such in-*
 9 *dividuals across the lifespan;*

10 “(2) *develop guidelines for such evidence-based*
 11 *interventions; and*

12 “(3) *disseminate information related to such evi-*
 13 *dence-based practices and interventions and guide-*
 14 *lines.”; and*

15 “(5) *in subsection (g), by striking “2024” and in-*
 16 *serting “2029”.*

17 “(c) *INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COM-*
 18 *MITTEE.*—*Section 399CC of the Public Health Service Act*
 19 *(42 U.S.C. 280i–2) is amended—*

20 “(1) *in subsection (b)—*

21 “(A) *in paragraph (2), by striking “develop*
 22 *a summary of” and inserting “summarize, on an*
 23 *annual basis,”; and*

1 (B) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “an
2 annual update to” and inserting “a biennial up-
3 date on”; and

4 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “2024” and in-
5 serting “2029”.

6 (d) *REPORTS TO CONGRESS*.—Section 399DD of the
7 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–3) is amended—

8 (1) by striking “2019” each place it appears and
9 inserting “2024”;

10 (2) in subsection (a)(1)—

11 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
12 “IN GENERAL” and inserting “IN GENERAL”;

13 (B) by striking “Health, Education, Labor,
14 and Pensions Committee of the Senate and the
15 Energy and Commerce Committee” and insert-
16 ing “Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
17 and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee
18 on Energy and Commerce”; and

19 (C) by striking “Internet Web site” and in-
20 serting “website”;

21 (3) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
23 “HEALTH AND WELL-BEING” and inserting
24 “MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS”;

1 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “health
2 and well-being” and inserting “mental health
3 needs”; and

4 (C) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
5 follows:

6 “(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
7 paragraph (1) shall contain—

8 “(A) an overview of policies and programs
9 relevant to the mental health of individuals with
10 autism spectrum disorder across their lifespan,
11 including an identification of existing Federal
12 laws, regulations, policies, research, and pro-
13 grams; and

14 “(B) recommendations to improve mental
15 health outcomes and address related disparities
16 in mental health care for individuals with au-
17 tism spectrum disorder, including prevention,
18 care coordination, and community-based serv-
19 ices.”; and

20 (4) by adding at the end the following:

21 “(c) UPDATE ON YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUTH
22 TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD.—Not later than 2 years
23 after the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act of
24 2024, the Secretary, in coordination with other Federal de-
25 partments and agencies that serve individuals with autism

1 *spectrum disorder, shall prepare and submit to the Com-*
2 *mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the*
3 *Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the*
4 *House of Representatives an update to the report required*
5 *pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, as added by sec-*
6 *tion 6 of the Autism CARES Act of 2014 and in effect before*
7 *the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act of 2019,*
8 *concerning young adults with autism spectrum disorder*
9 *and the challenges related to the transition from existing*
10 *school-based services to services available during adult-*
11 *hood.”.*

12 (e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section*
13 *399EE of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–*
14 *4) is amended—*

15 (1) *in subsection (a), by striking “\$23,100,000*
16 *for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-*
17 *serting “\$28,100,000 for each of fiscal years 2025*
18 *through 2029”;*

19 (2) *in subsection (b), by striking “\$50,599,000*
20 *for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-*
21 *serting “\$56,344,000 for each of fiscal years 2025*
22 *through 2029”; and*

23 (3) *in subsection (c), by striking “\$296,000,000*
24 *for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-*

1 serting “\$306,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
2 through 2029”.

3 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION, INTENSIFICATION, AND COORDINA-**
4 **TION OF ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL INSTI-**
5 **TUTES OF HEALTH WITH RESPECT TO RE-**
6 **SEARCH ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.**

7 Section 409C of the Public Health Service Act (42
8 U.S.C. 284g) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)—

10 (A) in paragraph (1)—

11 (i) by striking “including pathology”
12 and inserting “such as pathology”; and

13 (ii) by inserting “psychiatry, psy-
14 chology, gerontology, developmental behav-
15 ioral pediatrics, audiology,” after “toxi-
16 cology,”; and

17 (B) by adding at the end the following:

18 “(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this
19 section, the Director shall take into consideration the
20 various needs of individuals with autism spectrum
21 disorder with respect to services and supports and ad-
22 dressing co-occurring conditions.”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)—

24 (A) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “including the fields of”
2 and inserting “in fields such as”; and

3 (ii) by inserting “gerontology,” after
4 “behavioral psychology,”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (5)—

6 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
7 “five” and inserting “7”; and

8 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
9 “period of” and inserting “period”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(e) *BUDGET ESTIMATE.*—For each of fiscal years
12 2026 through 2029, the Director shall prepare and submit,
13 directly to the President for review and transmittal to Con-
14 gress, an annual budget estimate for the initiatives of the
15 National Institutes of Health pursuant to the strategic plan
16 developed under section 399CC(b)(5) and updated under
17 section 399CC(b)(6)(B), after reasonable opportunity for
18 comment (but without change) by the Secretary and the
19 Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee established
20 under section 399CC.”.

21 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO**
22 **COMMUNICATION TOOLS.**

23 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
25 retary”) may, at the request of a State, Indian Tribe or

1 *Tribal organization, locality, or territory, provide training*
2 *and technical assistance to such jurisdiction on the manner*
3 *in which Federal funding administered by the Secretary*
4 *may be used to provide individuals with autism spectrum*
5 *disorder and other developmental disabilities with access to*
6 *evidence-based services, tools, and technologies that support*
7 *communication needs.*

8 **(b) ANNUAL REPORT.**—*The Secretary shall annually*
9 *prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Edu-*
10 *cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Com-*
11 *mittee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee*
12 *on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives*
13 *a report summarizing any technical assistance provided by*
14 *the Secretary in the preceding fiscal year under subsection*
15 *(a) and any advancements in the development or evaluation*
16 *of the evidence-based services, tools, and technologies de-*
17 *scribed in such subsection.*

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118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 4762

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs and research relating to autism, and for other purposes.

SEPTEMBER 12, 2024

Reported with an amendment