

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1275

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2015

Mrs. CAPPS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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 the Congress that the Federal Gov-
4 ernment, in cooperation with international, State, tribal,
5 and local governments, concerned public and private orga-
6 nizations, and citizens, should use all practicable means
7 and 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 in any manner limits the author-
3 ity provided to or responsibility conferred on any Federal
4 department or agency by any provision of any law (includ-
5 ing regulations) or authorizes any violation of any provi-
6 sion of any law (including regulations), including any
7 health, energy, environmental, transportation, or any
8 other law or regulation.

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

10 (a) REQUIREMENT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
12 Human Services, within 2 years after the date of the
13 enactment of this Act, on the basis of the best avail-
14 able science, and in consultation pursuant to para-
15 graph (2), shall publish a strategic action plan to as-
16 sist health professionals in preparing for and re-
17 sponding to the impacts of climate change on public
18 health in the United States and other nations, par-
19 ticularly developing nations.

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

23 (A) consult with the Director of the Cen-
24 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, the
25 Administrator of the Environmental Protection
26 Agency, the Director of the National Institutes

1 of Health, the Secretary of Energy, other ap-
2 propriate Federal agencies, Indian tribes, State
3 and local governments, public health organiza-
4 tions, scientists, and other interested stake-
5 holders; and

6 (B) provide opportunity for public input.

7 (b) CONTENTS.—

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

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

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

21 (ii) pulmonary effects, including re-
22 sponses to aeroallergens;

23 (iii) cardiovascular effects, including
24 impacts of temperature extremes;

- 1 (iv) air pollution health effects, includ-
2 ing heightened sensitivity to air pollution;
3 (v) hazardous algal blooms;
4 (vi) mental and behavioral health im-
5 pacts of climate change;
6 (vii) the health of refugees, displaced
7 persons, and vulnerable communities;
8 (viii) the implications for communities
9 vulnerable to health effects of climate
10 change, as well as strategies for responding
11 to climate change within these commu-
12 nities; and
13 (ix) local and community-based health
14 interventions for climate-related health im-
15 pacts;
- 16 (B) creating tools for predicting and moni-
17 toring the public health effects of climate
18 change on the international, national, regional,
19 State, and local levels, and providing technical
20 support to assist in their implementation;
- 21 (C) developing public health communica-
22 tions strategies and interventions for extreme
23 weather events and disaster response situations;
- 24 (D) identifying and prioritizing commu-
25 nities and populations vulnerable to the health

1 effects of climate change, and determining ac-
2 tions and communication strategies that should
3 be taken to inform and protect these commu-
4 nities and populations from the health effects of
5 climate change;

6 (E) developing health communication, pub-
7 lic education, and outreach programs aimed at
8 public health and health care professionals, as
9 well as the general public, to promote prepared-
10 ness and response strategies relating to climate
11 change and public health, including the identi-
12 fication of greenhouse gas reduction behaviors
13 that are health-promoting;

14 (F) developing academic and regional cen-
15 ters of excellence devoted to—

16 (i) researching relationships between
17 climate change and health;

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

23 (iii) creating and supporting academic
24 fellowships focusing on the health effects
25 of climate change; and

1 (iv) training senior health ministry of-
2 ficials from developing nations to strength-
3 en the capacity of such nations to—

4 (I) prepare for and respond to
5 the health effects of climate change;
6 and

7 (II) build an international net-
8 work of public health professionals
9 with the necessary climate change
10 knowledge base;

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

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

1 (ii) acting through the Director of the Cen-
2 ters for Disease Control and Prevention or an
3 appropriate Federal agency, pursuing collabo-
4 rative efforts to develop, integrate, and imple-
5 ment such plans;

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

12 (i) identify and assess climate change
13 health effects preparedness and response
14 strategies;

15 (ii) prioritize critical public health in-
16 frastructure projects related to potential
17 climate change impacts that affect public
18 health; and

19 (iii) coordinate preparedness for cli-
20 mate change health impacts, including the
21 development of modeling and forecasting
22 tools;

23 (J) providing technical assistance for the
24 development, implementation, and support of
25 preparedness and response plans to anticipate

1 and reduce the health threats of climate change
2 in developing nations; and

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

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

13 (1) the status of critical environmental health
14 parameters and related human health impacts;

15 (2) the impacts of climate change on public
16 health; and

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

20 (d) IMPLEMENTATION.—

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

1 (2) OTHER PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS AND
2 INITIATIVES.—The Secretary and Federal officials of
3 other relevant Federal agencies shall administer
4 public health programs and initiatives authorized by
5 statutes other than this Act, subject to the require-
6 ments of such statutes, in a manner designed to
7 achieve the goals of the national strategic action
8 plan.

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

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

16 (B) provide funding for—

17 (i) research on the health effects of
18 climate change; and

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

24 (C) carry out other activities determined
25 appropriate by the Director to prepare for and

1 respond to the impacts of climate change on
2 public health.

3 **SEC. 5. ADVISORY BOARD.**

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

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

10 (1) are recommended by the President of the
11 National Academy of Sciences; and

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

15 (c) **FUNCTIONS.**—The science advisory board shall—

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

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

1 **SEC. 6. REPORTS.**

2 (a) **NEEDS ASSESSMENT.**—

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

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

11 (B) recommends programs to meet those
12 needs.

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

18 (b) **CLIMATE CHANGE HEALTH PROTECTION AND**
19 **PROMOTION REPORTS.**—

20 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall offer to
21 enter into, not later than 6 months after the submis-
22 sion of the report under subsection (a)(2), an agree-
23 ment with the National Research Council and the
24 Institute of Medicine, under which the National Re-
25 search Council and the Institute of Medicine will
26 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 the Congress and the Secretary and made publicly
10 available not later than July 1, 2016, and every 4
11 years 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 the Congress that funds appropriated to carry out this
19 Act should be used to supplement, and not replace, exist-
20 ing sources of funding for public health.

○