

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1128

To establish a National Autism Spectrum Disorders Initiative and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 26, 2011

Mr. MENENDEZ introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a National Autism Spectrum Disorders Initiative 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 “National Autism Spec-
5 trum Disorders Initiative Act of 2011”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL AUTISM SPEC-**
7 **TRUM DISORDERS INITIATIVE.**

8 Part R of title III of the Public Health Service Act
9 (42 U.S.C. 280i et seq.) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating section 399EE as section
2 399FF; and

3 (2) by inserting after section 399DD the fol-
4 lowing:

5 **“SEC. 399EE. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NATIONAL AUTISM**
6 **SPECTRUM DISORDERS INITIATIVE.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Office
8 of the Secretary of Health and Human Services the Na-
9 tional Autism Spectrum Disorders Initiative (referred to
10 in this Act as the ‘Initiative’). The principal goal of the
11 Initiative is to improve the lives of individuals with autism
12 spectrum disorders through research focused on preven-
13 tion, treatment, services, and cures.

14 “(b) DUTIES OF THE SECRETARY UNDER THE INI-
15 TIATIVE.—The Secretary or the Secretary’s designee—

16 “(1) shall act as the primary Federal official
17 with responsibility for overseeing all research on au-
18 tism spectrum disorders conducted or supported by
19 the National Institutes of Health;

20 “(2) shall review the strategic plan described in
21 section 399CC(b)(5), approve or reject such plan,
22 and be responsible for the implementation of any
23 such plan the Secretary approves;

24 “(3) shall receive directly from the President
25 and the Director of the Office of Management and

1 Budget all funds available for autism spectrum dis-
2 order activities of the National Institutes of Health;

3 “(4) from the amounts received under para-
4 graph (3) for the fiscal year, shall allocate, in con-
5 sultation with the Director of the National Institutes
6 of Health, to the agencies of the National Institutes
7 of Health in accordance with the strategic plan all
8 amounts available for such year for carrying out au-
9 tism spectrum disorder activities;

10 “(5) to the extent practicable, shall allocate
11 amounts under paragraph (4) not later than 30 days
12 after the date on which the Secretary or the Sec-
13 retary’s designee receives the amounts described
14 under paragraph (3);

15 “(6) may reallocate up to 3 percent of the total
16 amount allocated under paragraph (4) as needs
17 change and opportunities arise;

18 “(7) shall plan and evaluate research and other
19 activities related to autism spectrum disorders con-
20 ducted or supported by the agencies of the National
21 Institutes of Health, evaluating the activities of each
22 such agency and providing for the periodic reevalua-
23 tion of such activities;

24 “(8) shall maintain communications with all rel-
25 evant departments of the Federal Government to en-

1 sure the timely transmission of information con-
2 cerning autism spectrum disorders; and

3 “(9) shall carry out this section in consultation
4 with the heads of the agencies of the National Insti-
5 tutes of Health, with the advisory councils of such
6 agencies, and with the Interagency Autism Coordi-
7 nating Committee.”.

8 **SEC. 3. ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF**
9 **HEALTH WITH RESPECT TO AUTISM SPEC-**
10 **TRUM DISORDERS.**

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

13 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “basic and
14 clinical research” and inserting “basic, clinical, and
15 translational research”;

16 (2) in subsection (b)(2)—

17 (A) by striking “basic and clinical re-
18 search” and inserting “basic, clinical, and
19 translational research”; and

20 (B) by inserting “, building upon the rec-
21 ommendations set forth in the most recent stra-
22 tegic plan for autism spectrum disorders of the
23 Interagency Autism Coordinating Committee
24 established under section 399CC” before the
25 period at the end of the second sentence;

1 (3) in subsection (c), by inserting “, biomate-
2 rials for induced pluripotent stem cells, biosamples
3 relevant to environmental exposures,” after “tis-
4 sues”; and

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

6 “(e) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term
7 ‘translational research’ means research that emphasizes
8 the development and delivery of effective new therapies to
9 patients.”.

10 **SEC. 4. CLARIFYING AMENDMENTS WITH RESPECT TO AU-**
11 **TISM INTERVENTION.**

12 Section 399BB(f) of the Public Health Service Act
13 (42 U.S.C. 280i–1(f)) is amended—

14 (1) by inserting “to research networks” after
15 “contracts”; and

16 (2) by striking “interventions for individuals”
17 and inserting “interventions to improve the physical
18 and behavioral health and well-being of individuals”.

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