

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5561

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 9, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

To reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Early Hearing Detec-
3 tion and Intervention Act of 2021”.

4 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM FOR EARLY DE-**
5 **TECTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT RE-**
6 **GARDING DEAF AND HARD-OF-HEARING**
7 **NEWBORNS, INFANTS, AND YOUNG CHIL-**
8 **DREN.**

9 Section 399M(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42
10 U.S.C. 280g–1(f)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$17,818,000
12 for fiscal year 2018, \$18,173,800 for fiscal year
13 2019, \$18,628,145 for fiscal year 2020,
14 \$19,056,592 for fiscal year 2021, and \$19,522,758
15 for fiscal year 2022” and inserting “\$17,818,000 for
16 each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026”;

17 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “\$10,800,000
18 for fiscal year 2018, \$11,026,800 for fiscal year
19 2019, \$11,302,470 for fiscal year 2020,
20 \$11,562,427 for fiscal year 2021, and \$11,851,488
21 for fiscal year 2022” and inserting “\$16,000,000 for
22 each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026”; and

23 (3) in paragraph (3), by striking “fiscal years
24 2011 through 2015” and inserting “fiscal years
25 2022 through 2026”.

1 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY ON STATE EARLY HEARING DETECTION**
2 **AND INTERVENTION PROGRAMS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the
4 United States shall conduct a study reviewing State early
5 hearing detection and intervention (in this section referred
6 to as “EHDI”) programs. Such study shall—

7 (1) analyze how information collected through
8 such programs informs what is known about EHDI
9 activities to ensure that newborns, infants, and
10 young children have access to timely hearing
11 screenings and early interventions, including infor-
12 mation on any disparities in such access;

13 (2) analyze what is known about how parents
14 use State EHDI websites to seek health and pro-
15 grammatic guidance related to their child’s hearing
16 loss diagnosis; and

17 (3) identify efforts and any promising practices
18 of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,
19 the Health Resources and Services Administration,
20 the National Institute on Deafness and Other Com-
21 munication Disorders, and State EHDI programs—

22 (A) to address disparities in outreach for,
23 or access to, timely hearing screenings and
24 early interventions; and

25 (B) to ensure that EHDI follow-up serv-
26 ices are communicated and made available to

1 medically underserved populations, including ra-
2 cial and ethnic minorities.

3 (b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General
5 shall—

6 (1) complete the study under subsection (a) and
7 submit a report on the results of the study to—

8 (A) the Committee on Energy and Com-
9 merce of the House of Representatives; and

10 (B) the Committee on Health, Education,
11 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate; and

12 (2) make such report publicly available.

Passed the House of Representatives December 8,
2021.

Attest: CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.