

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4544

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide health equity for people with disabilities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 18, 2022

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

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide health equity for people with disabilities.

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 “Health Equity for Peo-
5 ple with Disabilities Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. HEALTH EQUITY FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 330 of the Public Health
8 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b) is amended—

9 (1) in subsection (a)(1)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph
 2 (A), by inserting “including people with disabil-
 3 ities within these populations;” after “public
 4 housing,”; and

5 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “in-
 6 cluding accessible healthcare services” before
 7 the semicolon;

8 (2) in subsection (b)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)(A)—

10 (i) in clause (i), in the matter pre-
 11 ceding subclause (I), by inserting “, includ-
 12 ing accessible healthcare services” after
 13 “health services”;

14 (ii) in clause (iv), by inserting “, in-
 15 cluding people with disabilities,” after “en-
 16 able individuals”; and

17 (iii) in clause (v), by inserting “, in-
 18 cluding people with disabilities,” after
 19 “health center”; and

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

21 “(4) DISABILITY.—The term ‘disability’ has the
 22 meaning given such term in the Americans with Dis-
 23 abilities Act of 1990.”;

24 (3) in subsection (c)(1)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

2 (A)—

3 (i) by inserting “, including people
4 with disabilities within these medically un-
5 derserved populations” before the first pe-
6 riod; and

7 (ii) by inserting “accessible” after
8 “lease of”; and

9 (B) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
10 “non-profit health and wellness agencies,” after
11 “local hospitals,”;

12 (4) in subsection (d)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1)(A), by inserting “or
14 with disabilities” before the semicolon; and

15 (B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “or for
16 addressing barriers to care affecting people with
17 disabilities in their communities” before the pe-
18 riod;

19 (5) in subsection (e)(6)(A)(ii), insert “, or will
20 serve a significant population of people with disabil-
21 ities” after “other applicants”;

22 (6) in subsection (f)(1)(B), by inserting “, in-
23 cluding people with disabilities,” after “women and
24 children”;

1 (7) in subsection (g)(1)(A), by inserting “, in-
 2 cluding people with disabilities” before the semi-
 3 colon;

4 (8) in subsection (h)(1), by striking “and vet-
 5 erans at risk of homelessness” and inserting “vet-
 6 erans at risk of homelessness, and people with dis-
 7 abilities who are homeless or at risk of homeles-
 8 ness”;

9 (9) in subsection (i)(1), by inserting “, inclusive
 10 of people with disabilities in these communities” be-
 11 fore the period; and

12 (10) in subsection (j)(4)—

13 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking
 14 “and” at the end;

15 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking the
 16 period and inserting “; or”; and

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

18 “(C) provide communication devices, aids,
 19 or services to meet disability accessibility re-
 20 quirements.”.

21 (b) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in the
 22 amendments made by subsection (a) shall be construed to
 23 modify the manner in which funding is provided to tar-
 24 geted populations on the date of enactment of this Act
 25 or to otherwise shift the focus of programming for such

1 populations. Such amendments are intended to ensure
2 that members of targeted populations with disabilities are
3 included in such programming, have access to care, and
4 are served under programs under section 330 of the Public
5 Health Service Act (as amended by this section).

