

[DISCUSSION DRAFT]

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a Heat Illness AI Surveillance and Response Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LAWLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a Heat Illness AI Surveillance and Response Program, 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 “[_____ Act]”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds that—

7 (1) heat-related deaths and illnesses are signifi-
8 cantly under reported due to—

1 (A) the limitations of coding under the
2 International Classification of Diseases; and

3 (B) inconsistent documentation by medical
4 practitioners; and

5 (2) artificial intelligence, including large lan-
6 guage models, can analyze unstructured clinical data
7 and local weather information to identify likely heat-
8 related cases missed by current systems.

9 **SEC. 3. STUDY ON HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS.**

10 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
11 ment of this Act, the Secretary shall conduct a study on
12 the incidence of heat-related illness and death in the
13 United States, including coordinating with State depart-
14 ments of health and vital statistics to determine how many
15 deaths in the United States may be attributable to heat-
16 related illness as a primary, secondary, or tertiary cause
17 of death.

18 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROGRAM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out a
20 program under which the Secretary will make grants to
21 not fewer than 3, and not more than 5, eligible entities.
22 Such program shall be known as the “Heat Illness AI Sur-
23 veillance and Response Program”.

24 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a
2 grant under the program, an eligible entity shall
3 submit to the Secretary an application in such form
4 and manner, and containing such information, as
5 the Secretary may require.

6 (2) CONTENTS.—An application of an eligible
7 entity referred to in paragraph (1) shall contain, at
8 a minimum, an implementation plan developed by
9 the eligible entity to carry out activities specified in
10 subsection (c).

11 (c) USE OF GRANTS.—An eligible entity that receives
12 a grant under the program shall use the amounts of the
13 grant—

14 (1) to develop and test AI tools that—

15 (A) are capable of analyzing medical
16 records, death certificates, and coroner reports
17 for indications of heat-related illness (including
18 if heat-related illness was a primary, secondary,
19 or tertiary cause of death); and

20 (B) integrate localized weather data and
21 occupational information to improve accuracy;

22 (2) to implement such AI tools for the purpose
23 of conducting surveillance of heat-related deaths and
24 illnesses;

1 (3) to develop heat response protocols to reduce
2 and prevent heat-related illness and death;

3 (4) to conduct clinician training on the identi-
4 fication, diagnosis, and management of heat-related
5 illness; and

6 (5) to conduct community outreach to increase
7 awareness of heat-related illness symptoms, risk fac-
8 tors, and available prevention and treatment re-
9 sources to develop heat response protocols.

10 (d) SELECTION OF GRANT RECIPIENTS.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
12 grants to eligible entities under the program on a
13 competitive basis.

14 (2) CRITERIA.—In awarding such grants, the
15 Secretary select eligible entities that represent di-
16 verse climates and populations and shall include—

17 (A) at least one urban community; and

18 (B) at least one rural community.

19 (e) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the program,
20 the Secretary shall consult with—

21 (1) medicolegal death investigation profes-
22 sionals of the Department of Justice;

23 (2) regional, State, and local departments of
24 health; and

1 (3) relevant stakeholders, including utility com-
2 panies.

3 (f) PRIVACY AND ETHICS.—In carrying out the pro-
4 gram, the Secretary shall—

5 (1) establish requirements to ensure compliance
6 with regulations promulgated under the Health In-
7 surance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996
8 (commonly known as “HIPAA”; Public Law 104–
9 191) and other applicable Federal privacy laws and
10 regulations; and

11 (2) establish an AI advisory board to ensure
12 transparency, community input, fairness, accuracy,
13 and equitable performance of AI models across de-
14 mographic and geographic populations.

15 (g) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

16 (1) PROGRESS REPORTS.—Not later than 1
17 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and an-
18 nually thereafter until the date of submission of the
19 final report under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall
20 submit to Congress a report containing a description
21 of—

22 (A) the progress made by the Secretary in
23 establishing and implementing the program;

1 (B) the accuracy of data collected under
2 the program relating to heat-related deaths and
3 illnesses; and

4 (C) public health outcomes, including
5 trends in heat-related morbidity and mortality
6 and the effectiveness of AI-enabled surveillance
7 and response interventions.

8 (2) FINAL REPORT.—Not later than September
9 30, 2031, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a
10 final report containing—

11 (A) an evaluation of the overall effective-
12 ness of the program; and

13 (B) a description of the costs and benefits
14 of individual activities carried out under the
15 program.

16 (h) ISSUANCE OF NATIONAL GUIDELINES.—Not
17 later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this
18 Act, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and
19 Prevention shall issue national guidelines to standardize
20 documentation and reporting of heat-related illnesses and
21 deaths, including improved use of external cause codes
22 used under the International Classification of Diseases.
23 Such guidelines may be issued at such time as determined
24 appropriate by the Director, regardless of the date upon
25 which the program under this Act concludes.

1 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

2 (1) AI.—The term “AI” refers to artificial in-
3 telligence

4 (2) AI TOOL.—The term “AI tool” means a
5 software application that uses AI.

6 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
7 ty” means a public or private entity (including a
8 hospital system, academic medical center, State or
9 local health department, or qualified research insti-
10 tution) that has demonstrated capacity to carry out
11 activities under the program, as determined by the
12 Secretary.

13 (4) PROGRAM.—The term “program” means
14 the Heat Illness AI Surveillance and Response Pro-
15 gram referred to in subsection (a).

16 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting
18 through the Director of the National Institutes of
19 Health and the Director of the Centers for Disease
20 Control and Prevention

21 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
22 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
23 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.