

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 2d Sess.

S. 4762

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs and research relating to autism, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on _____ and
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE intended
to be proposed by _____

Viz:

1 Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the fol-
2 lowing:

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Autism Collaboration,
5 Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of
6 2024” or the “Autism CARES Act of 2024”.

7 **SEC. 2. PROGRAMS RELATING TO AUTISM.**

8 (a) DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES SURVEILLANCE
9 AND RESEARCH PROGRAM.—Section 399AA of the Public
10 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “tribe, or
2 a tribal” and inserting “Tribe, or a Tribal”;

3 (2) in subsection (d)(1)—

4 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
5 “TRIBE; TRIBAL” and inserting “TRIBE; TRIB-
6 AL”;

7 (B) by striking “tribe” and inserting
8 “Tribe”; and

9 (C) by striking “tribal” and inserting
10 “Tribal”; and

11 (3) in subsection (e), by striking “2024” and
12 inserting “2029”.

13 (b) AUTISM EDUCATION, EARLY DETECTION, AND
14 INTERVENTION.—Section 399BB of the Public Health
15 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–1) is amended—

16 (1) in subsections (b)(1) and (c), by striking
17 “culturally competent” each place it appears and in-
18 serting “culturally and linguistically appropriate”;

19 (2) in subsection (b)—

20 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “screen-
21 ing” each place it appears and inserting
22 “screening and diagnostic”;

23 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “higher
24 risk” and inserting “increased likelihood”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (7), by striking “higher
2 risk” and inserting “increased likelihood”;

3 (3) in subsection (e)—

4 (A) in paragraph (1)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
6 graph (A), by inserting “and strengthen
7 the capacity of” after “expand”;

8 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by inserting
9 “and strengthen the capacity of” after “ex-
10 pand”;

11 (iii) in subparagraph (B)(v), by in-
12 serting “or other providers, as applicable”
13 before the semicolon; and

14 (iv) by amending subparagraph (C) to
15 read as follows:

16 “(C) program sites—

17 “(i) provide culturally and linguis-
18 tically appropriate services;

19 “(ii) take a multidisciplinary approach
20 and have experience working with under-
21 served populations; and

22 “(iii) identify opportunities to partner
23 with community-based organizations to ex-
24 pand the capacity of communities to serve

1 individuals with autism spectrum disorder
2 or other developmental disabilities.”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (2), by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 “(C) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
6 after the date of enactment of the Autism
7 CARES Act of 2024, the Secretary shall submit
8 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
9 and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee
10 on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
11 resentatives a report that examines the need for
12 developmental-behavioral pediatricians and the
13 feasibility of expanding the developmental-be-
14 havioral pediatrician training programs de-
15 scribed in subparagraph (A).”;

16 (4) by amending subsection (f) to read as fol-
17 lows:

18 “(f) INTERVENTION.—The Secretary shall promote
19 research, through grants or contracts, which may include
20 grants or contracts to research centers or networks, to—

21 “(1) develop and evaluate evidence-based prac-
22 tices and interventions to improve outcomes for indi-
23 viduals with autism spectrum disorder or other de-
24 velopmental disabilities by addressing physical and

1 behavioral health and communication needs of such
2 individuals across the lifespan;

3 “(2) develop guidelines for such evidence-based
4 interventions; and

5 “(3) disseminate information related to such
6 evidence-based practices and interventions and
7 guidelines.”; and

8 (5) in subsection (g), by striking “2024” and
9 inserting “2029”.

10 (c) INTERAGENCY AUTISM COORDINATING COM-
11 MITTEE.—Section 399CC of the Public Health Service Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 280i–2) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “develop
15 a summary of” and inserting “summarize, on
16 an annual basis,”; and

17 (B) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “an
18 annual update to” and inserting “a biennial up-
19 date on”; and

20 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “2024” and
21 inserting “2029”.

22 (d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Section 399DD of the
23 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–3) is amend-
24 ed—

1 (1) by striking “2019” each place it appears
2 and inserting “2024”;

3 (2) in subsection (a)(1)—

4 (A) in the paragraph heading, by striking
5 “IN GENERAL” and inserting “IN GENERAL”;

6 (B) by striking “Health, Education, Labor,
7 and Pensions Committee of the Senate and the
8 Energy and Commerce Committee” and insert-
9 ing “Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
10 and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee
11 on Energy and Commerce”; and

12 (C) by striking “Internet Web site” and
13 inserting “website”;

14 (3) in subsection (b)—

15 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
16 “HEALTH AND WELL-BEING” and inserting
17 “MENTAL HEALTH NEEDS”;

18 (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “health
19 and well-being” and inserting “mental health
20 needs”; and

21 (C) by amending paragraph (2) to read as
22 follows:

23 “(2) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under
24 paragraph (1) shall contain—

1 “(A) an overview of policies and programs
2 relevant to the mental health of individuals with
3 autism spectrum disorder across their lifespan,
4 including an identification of existing Federal
5 laws, regulations, policies, research, and pro-
6 grams; and

7 “(B) recommendations to improve mental
8 health outcomes and address related disparities
9 in mental health care for individuals with au-
10 tism spectrum disorder, including prevention,
11 care coordination, and community-based serv-
12 ices.”; and

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

14 “(c) UPDATE ON YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUTH
15 TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD.—Not later than 2 years
16 after the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act
17 of 2024, the Secretary, in coordination with other Federal
18 departments and agencies that serve individuals with au-
19 tism spectrum disorder, shall prepare and submit to the
20 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of
21 the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce
22 of the House of Representatives an update to the report
23 required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, as
24 added by section 6 of the Autism CARES Act of 2014
25 and in effect before the date of enactment of the Autism

1 CARES Act of 2019, concerning young adults with autism
2 spectrum disorder and the challenges related to the transi-
3 tion from existing school-based services to services avail-
4 able during adulthood.”.

5 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
6 399EE of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i–
7 4) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$23,100,000
9 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-
10 sserting “\$28,100,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
11 through 2029”;

12 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$50,599,000
13 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-
14 sserting “\$56,344,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
15 through 2029”; and

16 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “\$296,000,000
17 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-
18 sserting “\$306,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025
19 through 2029”.

20 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION, INTENSIFICATION, AND COORDINA-**
21 **TION OF ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL INSTI-**
22 **TUTES OF HEALTH WITH RESPECT TO RE-**
23 **SEARCH ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.**

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

1 (1) in subsection (a)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) by striking “including pathology”
4 and inserting “such as pathology”; and

5 (ii) by inserting “psychiatry, psy-
6 chology, gerontology, developmental behav-
7 ioral pediatrics, audiology,” after “toxi-
8 cology,”; and

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

10 “(4) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this
11 section, the Director shall take into consideration
12 the various needs of individuals with autism spec-
13 trum disorder with respect to services and supports
14 and addressing co-occurring conditions.”;

15 (2) in subsection (b)—

16 (A) in paragraph (2)—

17 (i) by striking “including the fields
18 of” and inserting “in fields such as”; and

19 (ii) by inserting “gerontology,” after
20 “behavioral psychology,”; and

21 (B) in paragraph (5)—

22 (i) in subparagraph (A), by striking
23 “five” and inserting “7”; and

24 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by striking
25 “period of” and inserting “period”; and

1 (3) by adding at the end the following:

2 “(e) BUDGET ESTIMATE.—For each of fiscal years
3 2026 through 2029, the Director shall prepare and sub-
4 mit, directly to the President for review and transmittal
5 to Congress, an annual budget estimate for the initiatives
6 of the National Institutes of Health pursuant to the stra-
7 tegic plan developed under section 399CC(b)(5) and up-
8 dated under section 399CC(b)(6)(B), after reasonable op-
9 portunity for comment (but without change) by the Sec-
10 retary and the Interagency Autism Coordinating Com-
11 mittee established under section 399CC.”.

12 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO**
13 **COMMUNICATION TOOLS.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
15 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
16 retary”) may, at the request of a State, Indian Tribe or
17 Tribal organization, locality, or territory, provide training
18 and technical assistance to such jurisdiction on the man-
19 ner in which Federal funding administered by the Sec-
20 retary may be used to provide individuals with autism
21 spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities
22 with access to evidence-based services, tools, and tech-
23 nologies that support communication needs.

24 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually
25 prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Edu-

1 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Com-
2 mittee on Education and the Workforce and the Com-
3 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
4 resentatives a report summarizing any technical assistance
5 provided by the Secretary in the preceding fiscal year
6 under subsection (a) and any advancements in the devel-
7 opment or evaluation of such evidence-based services,
8 tools, and technologies.