

S. 494, National Plan for Epilepsy Act

Section 1. Short Title.

This section provides that the Act may be cited as the "National Plan for Epilepsy Act."

Section 2. Findings.

This section sets forth congressional findings regarding epilepsy, including its prevalence, health and economic burden, rates of uncontrolled seizures, impact on employment and household income, elevated mortality risk, and associated health care costs.

Section 3. Establishing a National Plan for Epilepsy.

The section directs the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop and periodically update a national strategic plan; coordinate epilepsy-related research and services across Federal agencies; estimate Federal investments in epilepsy activities; encourage development of new treatments and interventions; improve diagnosis and care coordination; evaluate the impact of epilepsy on individuals and caregivers; solicit public input; conduct annual assessments of progress; coordinate, where appropriate, with international organizations; and carry out other activities determined appropriate by the Secretary.

The section also establishes an Advisory Council on Epilepsy Research, Care, and Services composed of representatives from relevant Federal agencies, including the National Institutes of Health, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Food and Drug Administration, Health Resources and Services Administration, Department of Defense, and Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as non-Federal members representing individuals living with epilepsy, family caregivers, health care providers, researchers, and nonprofit organizations.

The section further requires the Secretary to submit annual reports to Congress evaluating federally funded epilepsy research, prevention, diagnosis, treatment, clinical care, and institutional-, home-, and community-based programs; recommending priority actions and implementation steps; and describing progress made in carrying out the National Plan. Finally, this section sunsets the National Plan authorities on December 31, 2035.