

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. LUJÁN (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize programs and research relating to autism, 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 “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)(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,”;

17 (B) in paragraph (5)(A), by striking “pro-  
18 posed budgetary requirements” and inserting  
19 “a professional judgment of anticipated budg-  
20 etary needs”; and

21 (C) in paragraph (6)(B), by striking “an  
22 annual” and inserting “a biennial”; and

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

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

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

6 (2) in subsection (a)(1)—

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

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

15 (C) by striking “Internet Web site” and  
16 inserting “website”; and

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

18 “(e) UPDATE ON YOUNG ADULTS AND YOUTH  
19 TRANSITIONING TO ADULTHOOD.—Not later than 2 years  
20 after the date of enactment of the Autism CARES Act  
21 of 2024, the Secretary, in coordination with other Federal  
22 departments and agencies that serve individuals with au-  
23 tism spectrum disorder, shall prepare and submit to the  
24 Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of  
25 the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce

1 of the House of Representatives an update to the report  
2 required pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, as  
3 added by section 6 of the Autism CARES Act of 2014  
4 and in effect before the date of enactment of the Autism  
5 CARES Act of 2019, concerning young adults with autism  
6 spectrum disorder and the challenges related to the transi-  
7 tion from existing school-based services to services avail-  
8 able during adulthood.”.

9 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
10 399EE of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280i-  
11 4) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$23,100,000  
13 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-  
14 serting “\$28,100,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
15 through 2029”;

16 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$50,599,000  
17 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-  
18 serting “\$56,344,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
19 through 2029”; and

20 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “\$296,000,000  
21 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024” and in-  
22 serting “\$306,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025  
23 through 2029”.

1 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION, INTENSIFICATION, AND COORDINA-**  
2 **TION OF ACTIVITIES OF NATIONAL INSTI-**  
3 **TUTES OF HEALTH WITH RESPECT TO RE-**  
4 **SEARCH ON AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER.**

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

7 (1) in subsection (a)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)—

9 (i) by striking “including pathology”  
10 and inserting “such as pathology”; and

11 (ii) by inserting “psychiatry, psy-  
12 chology, gerontology, developmental behav-  
13 ioral pediatrics, audiology,” after “toxi-  
14 cology,”; and

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

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

21 (2) in subsection (b)—

22 (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “geron-  
23 tology,” after “behavioral psychology,”; and

24 (B) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “pe-  
25 riod of” and inserting “period”.

1 **SEC. 4. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO IMPROVE ACCESS TO**  
2 **COMMUNICATION TOOLS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
4 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-  
5 retary”) may, at the request of a State, Indian Tribe or  
6 Tribal organization, locality, or territory, provide training  
7 and technical assistance to such jurisdiction on the man-  
8 ner in which Federal funding administered by the Sec-  
9 retary may be used to provide individuals with autism  
10 spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities  
11 with access to evidence-based services, tools, and tech-  
12 nologies that support communication needs.

13 (b) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall annually  
14 prepare and submit to the Committee on Health, Edu-  
15 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Com-  
16 mittee on Education and the Workforce and the Com-  
17 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-  
18 resentatives a report summarizing any technical assistance  
19 provided by the Secretary in the preceding fiscal year  
20 under subsection (a) and any advancements in the devel-  
21 opment or evaluation of such evidence-based services,  
22 tools, and technologies.