

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8852

To amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health to design and implement a program to study the health effects of nuclear radiation on women, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2026

Mr. LAWLER (for himself and Mr. LEVIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Director of the National Institutes of Health to design and implement a program to study the health effects of nuclear radiation on women, 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 “Radiation Health Re-
5 search Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR RADIATION ON**
2 **WOMEN.**

3 Part F of title IV of the Public Health Service Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 287d et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 486C. HEALTH EFFECTS OF NUCLEAR RADIATION ON**
7 **WOMEN.**

8 “(a) **AUTHORITY TO CONDUCT PROGRAM.**—Subject
9 to the availability of appropriations, the Director of NIH,
10 acting through the Director of the Office, (in this section
11 referred to as the ‘Director’) shall design and implement
12 a program to study the health effects of nuclear radiation
13 on women.

14 “(b) **PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.**—In designing and
15 implementing the program, the Director shall—

16 “(1) specifically examine the health effects of
17 nuclear radiation on pregnant women, adolescent
18 girls, and pre-adolescent girls;

19 “(2) provide for longitudinal monitoring of indi-
20 viduals participating in the program over a period of
21 not less than 10 years;

22 “(3) provide opportunities for collaborative,
23 interagency, multidisciplinary, and innovative re-
24 search;

1 “(4) ensure that the methodology and scope of
2 the program are consistent with the best available
3 scientific evidence; and

4 “(5) ensure that the program is conducted in a
5 confidential manner to protect the privacy rights of
6 the individuals participating in the program.

7 “(c) CONSULTATION.—The Director shall carry out
8 the program in consultation with the Secretary of Health
9 and Human Services, the Secretary of Energy, the heads
10 of other appropriate Federal agencies, and other Federal
11 and non-Federal stakeholders.

12 “(d) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
13 after the date of enactment of this section, and annually
14 thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a report
15 containing—

16 “(1) a summary of the results of the program,
17 including the findings of the Director;

18 “(2) an assessment of the status of existing re-
19 search on the health effects of nuclear radiation on
20 women and current knowledge gaps; and

21 “(3) recommendations for a national strategy to
22 minimize any adverse health effects of nuclear radi-
23 ation on women, including through the use of a pub-
24 lic education campaign.”.

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