

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8869

To amend the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) to authorize research on the impacts of traumatic birth experiences and post-traumatic stress disorder on mothers, infants, and families, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2026

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. TONKO, Mrs. McIVER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. CARSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et seq.) to authorize research on the impacts of traumatic birth experiences and post-traumatic stress disorder on mothers, infants, and families, 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 “Traumatic Births Re-
5 search Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH ON THE IMPACTS OF TRAUMATIC BIRTH**
2 **EXPERIENCES AND POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS**
3 **DISORDER ON MOTHERS, INFANTS, AND FAM-**
4 **ILIES.**

5 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—

6 (1) CLARIFICATION OF ELIGIBLE AWARD RE-
7 CIPIENTS.—Section 330P of the Public Health Serv-
8 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–22) is amended by striking
9 “may award grants” and inserting “may award
10 grants to States, Indian Tribes, and Tribal organiza-
11 tions”.

12 (2) RESEARCH.—Section 330P of the Public
13 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–22) is amend-
14 ed—

15 (A) by redesignating subsections (b) and
16 (c) as subsections (c) and (e), respectively; and
17 (B) by inserting after subsection (a) the
18 following:

19 “(b) RESEARCH.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-
21 duct research, or award grants or other support to
22 States, Indian Tribes, and Tribal organizations for
23 research, on—

24 “(A) how traumatic birth experiences and
25 post-traumatic stress disorder impact short-
26 and long-term maternal mental health;

1 “(B) the impacts of traumatic birth experi-
2 ences and post-traumatic stress disorder on
3 mothers, infants, and families; and

4 “(C) the relationship between severe ma-
5 ternal morbidity and traumatic birth experi-
6 ences.

7 “(2) DISAGGREGATION OF DATA.—The Sec-
8 retary shall disaggregate the findings of the research
9 conducted or supported pursuant to paragraph (1)
10 by race and ethnicity.”.

11 (b) CONFORMING CHANGES.—Subsection (c) of sec-
12 tion 330P of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
13 254c–22), as redesignated by subsection (a), is further
14 amended—

15 (1) in the subsection heading, by striking “IN-
16 TEGRATED SERVICES FOR PREGNANT AND
17 POSTPARTUM WOMEN” and inserting “ELIGIBILITY
18 AND TERMS”;

19 (2) in paragraph (1)—

20 (A) by striking “a grant under subsection
21 (a)” and inserting “an award under subsection
22 (a) or (b)”; and

23 (B) by striking “(as such terms are de-
24 fined in section 4 of the Indian Self-Determina-
25 tion and Education Assistance Act)”; and

1 (3) in paragraph (2)(A)—

2 (A) by striking “A grant awarded under
3 subsection (a)” and inserting “An award under
4 subsection (a) or (b)”; and

5 (B) by striking “a grantee under sub-
6 section (a)” and inserting “an awardee under
7 subsection (a) or (b)”; and

8 (4) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking “awarding
9 grants under subsection (a)” and inserting “making
10 awards under subsection (a) or (b)”; and

11 (5) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “grantees”
12 and inserting “awardees”.

13 (c) DEFINITION.—Section 330P of the Public Health
14 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–22) is further amended by
15 inserting after subsection (c) (as so redesignated) the fol-
16 lowing new subsection:

17 “(d) DEFINITION.—In this section, the terms ‘State’,
18 ‘Indian Tribe’, and ‘Tribal organization’ have the mean-
19 ings given to those terms in section 4 of the Indian Self-
20 Determination and Education Assistance Act.”.

21 (d) FUNDING.—Subsection (e) of section 330P of the
22 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–22), as redес-
23 igned by subsection (a), is further amended—

1 (1) by striking “There are authorized to be ap-
 2 propriated to carry out this section” and inserting
 3 the following:

4 “(1) INTEGRATED SERVICES.—There is author-
 5 ized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (a)”;
 6 and

7 (2) by adding at the end the following:

8 “(2) RESEARCH.—There is authorized to be ap-
 9 propriated to carry out subsection (b) \$1,000,000
 10 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

11 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROJECT FOR RESEARCH ON THE IMPACTS**
 12 **OF MIDWIFE-DRIVEN CARE MODELS ON**
 13 **TRAUMATIC BIRTH EXPERIENCES AND MA-**
 14 **TERNAL MENTAL HEALTH OUTCOMES.**

15 (a) GRANTS.—The Secretary of Health and Human
 16 Services shall carry out a pilot program consisting of
 17 awarding grants for research on the extent and mecha-
 18 nisms through which midwife-driven care models, relative
 19 to medical care models, impact—

20 (1) traumatic birth experiences; and

21 (2) maternal mental health outcomes.

22 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 23 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 24 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2026
 25 through 2030.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**

2 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
3 submit to the Congress an interim report not later than
4 the end of fiscal year 2028, and a final report not later
5 than the end of fiscal year 2030, on each of—

6 (1) the research conducted or supported pursu-
7 ant to section 330P(b) of the Public Health Service
8 Act, as added by section 2; and

9 (2) the pilot project conducted pursuant to sec-
10 tion 3.

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