

## Committee Print

(SHOWING THE TEXT OF H.R. 5551 AS FAVORABLY FORWARDED BY THE  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH ON NOVEMBER 4, 2021)

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5551

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, and for other purposes.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 12, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mr. HUDSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities, 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 “Improving the Health  
5 of Children Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF THE NATIONAL CENTER ON**  
2 **BIRTH DEFECTS AND DEVELOPMENTAL DIS-**  
3 **ABILITIES.**

4 Section 317C of the Public Health Service Act (42  
5 U.S.C. 247b-4) is amended—

6 (1) by striking subsection (a)(4) and inserting  
7 the following:

8 “(4) SPECIFIC PROGRAMS.—The Secretary, act-  
9 ing through the Director of the Center, shall con-  
10 tinue to carry out programs related to—

11 “(A) early identification of developmental  
12 delay and disability;

13 “(B) birth defects;

14 “(C) folic acid;

15 “(D) cerebral palsy;

16 “(E) intellectual disabilities;

17 “(F) child development;

18 “(G) newborn screening;

19 “(H) autism;

20 “(I) fragile X syndrome;

21 “(J) fetal alcohol spectrum disorders and  
22 other conditions related to prenatal substance  
23 use;

24 “(K) pediatric genetic disorders;

25 “(L) neuromuscular diseases;

26 “(M) congenital heart defects;

1                   “(N) attention-deficit/hyperactivity dis-  
2                   order;

3                   “(O) stillbirth;

4                   “(P) Tourette Syndrome; or

5                   “(Q) any other relevant disease, disability,  
6                   disorder, or condition, as determined the Sec-  
7                   retary.”;

8                   (2) in subsection (e), in the matter preceding  
9                   paragraph (1), by striking “Not later than February  
10                  1” and all that follows through “2 fiscal years—”  
11                  and inserting the following: “The Secretary shall  
12                  submit biennially to the Committee on Energy and  
13                  Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the  
14                  Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-  
15                  sions of the Senate, a report that—”; and

16                  (3) in subsection (f), by striking “such sums as  
17                  may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2003  
18                  through 2007” and inserting “\$186,010,000 for  
19                  each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026”.

20   **SEC. 3. EFFECTS OF FOLIC ACID IN PREVENTION OF BIRTH**  
21                   **DEFECTS.**

22                  Section 317J of the Public Health Service Act (42  
23                  U.S.C. 247b–11) is amended by striking subsection (e)  
24                  (relating to authorization of appropriations).