

## Union Calendar No.

119<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 6238

[Report No. 119-]

To establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National Institutes of Health.

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### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

JULY --, 2026

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on November 20, 2025]

# **A BILL**

To establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National  
Institutes of Health.

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 “NIH Implementing a*  
5 *Maternal health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Ev-*  
6 *eryone Act” or the “NIH IMPROVE Act”.*

7 **SEC. 2. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.**

8 *Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act*  
9 *(42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end*  
10 *the following:*

11 **“SEC. 409K. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.**

12 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall con-*  
13 *tinue to carry out a program to improve maternal health*  
14 *outcomes, to be known as the Implementing a Maternal*  
15 *health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Ini-*  
16 *tiative or the ‘IMPROVE Initiative’ (referred to in this sec-*  
17 *tion as the ‘Initiative’).*

18 *“(b) OBJECTIVES.—The Initiative shall—*

19 *“(1) advance research to—*

20 *“(A) reduce preventable causes of maternal*  
21 *mortality and severe maternal morbidity;*

22 *“(B) reduce health disparities related to*  
23 *maternal health outcomes, including such dis-*  
24 *parities associated with populations with dis-*  
25 *proportionately high rates of maternal mortality*

1           *and severe maternal morbidity relative to the*  
2           *national rate; and*

3           “(C) *improve health for pregnant and*  
4           *postpartum women before, during, and after*  
5           *pregnancy;*

6           “(2) *use an integrated approach to understand*  
7           *the factors, including biological, behavioral, and other*  
8           *factors, that affect maternal mortality and severe ma-*  
9           *ternal morbidity by building an evidence base for im-*  
10          *proved outcomes in specific regions of the United*  
11          *States; and*

12          “(3) *target health disparities associated with*  
13          *maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity*  
14          *by—*

15                 “(A) *implementing and evaluating commu-*  
16                 *nity-based interventions for disproportionately*  
17                 *affected women; and*

18                 “(B) *identifying risk factors and the under-*  
19                 *lying biological mechanisms associated with*  
20                 *leading causes of maternal mortality and severe*  
21                 *maternal morbidity in the United States.*

22          “(c) *IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director of NIH may*  
23          *award grants or enter into contracts, cooperative agree-*  
24          *ments, or other transactions to carry out this section.*

1       “(d) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*  
2 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section*  
3 *\$63,400,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.”.*