

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3986

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition, to conduct a study on the causes of deaths related to high school football and formulate recommendations to prevent such deaths.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 5, 2015

Mr. RICHMOND (for himself, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. ABRAHAM) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the President's Council on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition, to conduct a study on the causes of deaths related to high school football and formulate recommendations to prevent such deaths.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “High School Football
3 Safety Study Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) As of October 27, 2015, seven high school
7 football players—Cam’ron Matthews, Roddrick Wil-
8 liams, Kenney Bui, Evan Murray, Ben Hamm,
9 Tyrell Cameron, and Andre Smith—have passed
10 away during calendar year 2015 from causes directly
11 or indirectly related to football, including head or
12 neck trauma, heat stroke, and dehydration.

13 (2) According to the National Center for Cata-
14 strophic Sports Injury Research, 1,207 high school
15 football players have passed away since 1931 from
16 causes directly or indirectly related to football.

17 (3) Over the past several years, the negative
18 health effects of repeated head trauma have become
19 clearer.

20 (4) Protecting the Nation’s children is one of
21 the most important responsibilities of parents and
22 Members of Congress.

1 **SEC. 3. STUDYING HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL DEATHS AND**
2 **DEVELOPING RECOMMENDATIONS TO PRE-**
3 **VENT FUTURE TRAGEDIES.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
5 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-
6 retary”), acting through the Director of the Centers for
7 Disease Control and Prevention, and in consultation with
8 the Secretary of Education and the President’s Council
9 on Fitness, Sports, and Nutrition, shall conduct a study—

10 (1) to more precisely identify the causes of
11 deaths related to high school football; and

12 (2) to develop recommendations to prevent such
13 deaths in the future.

14 (b) SOLICITING INPUT.—In carrying out subsection
15 (a), the Secretary shall seek input from nongovernmental
16 entities, including organizations representing football
17 coaches, athletic trainers, parents, and health care profes-
18 sionals.

19 (c) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
20 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to
21 the Congress and publish on the public Website of the
22 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality a report on
23 the results of the study under subsection (a).

24 (d) CONTENTS.—The report under subsection (a)
25 shall include—

1 (1) a comprehensive review of research con-
2 ducted on deaths in high school football;

3 (2) an evaluation of causes of deaths related to
4 high school football; and

5 (3) recommendations on actions that can be
6 taken by schools, coaches, trainers, and govern-
7 mental entities to prevent high school deaths from
8 occurring in the future, including—

9 (A) measures to prevent life-threatening
10 injury from occurring;

11 (B) medical treatment protocols to treat
12 these injuries when they occur; and

13 (C) ways in which technology and data
14 analytics can be used to prevent serious injury
15 and death.

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