

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5224

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to eligible entities to develop strategic response plans with respect to the opioid crisis, and to require health care practitioners prescribing an opioid for certain patients to also prescribe an opioid overdose reversal drug, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

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

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants to eligible entities to develop strategic response plans with respect to the opioid crisis, and to require health care practitioners prescribing an opioid for certain patients to also prescribe an opioid overdose reversal drug, 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 “Preventing Overdoses  
5       and Saving Lives Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. STATE DEMONSTRATION GRANTS FOR COM-**  
2 **PREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE DATA.**

3 Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
4 241 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 317U  
5 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–23) the following:

6 **“SEC. 317V. STATE DEMONSTRATION GRANTS FOR COM-**  
7 **PREHENSIVE OPIOID ABUSE DATA.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in conjunction  
9 with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and  
10 Prevention, may award grants to eligible entities—

11 “(1) to conduct research and develop a strategic  
12 response plan with respect to the opioid crisis; and

13 “(2) to establish and implement a co-pre-  
14 scribing program.

15 “(b) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall deter-  
17 mine the amount of each grant awarded under this  
18 section on an annual basis. In allocating such  
19 amounts across grantees for a fiscal year, the Sec-  
20 retary shall award—

21 “(A) a minimum amount to each grantee  
22 in accordance with paragraph (2); and

23 “(B) an additional amount to each grantee  
24 in accordance with paragraph (3).

25 “(2) MINIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary  
26 shall—

1           “(A) determine the basis for determining  
2           the minimum amount of a grant under para-  
3           graph (1)(A); and

4           “(B) apply such basis consistently across  
5           all grantees under this section.

6           “(3) ADDITIONAL AMOUNT.—In allocating addi-  
7           tional amounts across all grantees under this section  
8           for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall give priority in  
9           setting such amounts to grantees with the highest  
10          opioid dispensing rates as determined by the Centers  
11          for Disease Control and Prevention.

12          “(c) PRIORITY IN SELECTION.—In selecting grantees  
13          under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-  
14          ble entities with the highest opioid dispensing rates as de-  
15          termined by the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-  
16          tion.

17          “(d) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY A GRANTEE.—A  
18          grantee under this section shall allocate the funds received  
19          through the grant as follows:

20                  “(1) Not more than 80 percent of the funds re-  
21                  ceived through the grant shall be used to conduct re-  
22                  search and develop a strategic plan in accordance  
23                  with subsection (e).

1           “(2) At least 20 percent of the grant shall be  
2 used by the grantee to administer a co-prescribing  
3 program in accordance with subsection (f).

4           “(e) RESEARCH; STRATEGIC PLAN.—

5           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (d), a  
6 grantee under this section shall use the grant  
7 funds—

8           “(A) to conduct research on the impacts of  
9 the opioid crisis within the jurisdiction of the  
10 grantee; and

11           “(B) to develop a strategic plan to respond  
12 to the opioid crisis within such jurisdiction.

13           “(2) STRATEGIC PLAN CONTENTS.—A strategic  
14 plan required by paragraph (1)(B) shall include  
15 plans for—

16           “(A) increasing public awareness about the  
17 opioid crisis within the jurisdiction of the grant-  
18 ee;

19           “(B) full-spectrum prevention within such  
20 jurisdiction;

21           “(C) intervention within such jurisdiction;

22           “(D) treatment and recovery within such  
23 jurisdiction; and

24           “(E) coordinating with law enforcement  
25 within such jurisdiction.

1 “(f) CO-PRESCRIBING PROGRAM.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (d), a  
3 grantee under this section shall use funds received  
4 through the grant to carry out a co-prescribing pro-  
5 gram under which the grantee requires—

6 “(A) health care practitioners in the juris-  
7 diction of the grantee who prescribe an opioid  
8 for any patient to also prescribe an opioid over-  
9 dose reversal drug for such patient if—

10 “(i) the opioid dosage prescribed is  
11 equal to or in excess of 50 morphine milli-  
12 gram equivalents per day;

13 “(ii) the practitioner prescribes a  
14 benzodiazepine for the patient or knows or  
15 reasonably should know a benzodiazepine  
16 has been prescribed for the patient in the  
17 past;

18 “(iii) the practitioner prescribes medi-  
19 cation-assisted treatment for the patient or  
20 knows or reasonably should know medica-  
21 tion assisted treatment has been prescribed  
22 for the patient in the past; or

23 “(iv) the practitioner knows or rea-  
24 sonably should know the patient has a his-  
25 tory of substance use disorder;

1           “(B) such health care practitioners to com-  
2           plete continuing education on opioid pre-  
3           scribing; and

4           “(C) coroners in the jurisdiction of the  
5           grantee to complete continuing education on  
6           recognizing fatalities attributable to an opioid  
7           overdose.

8           “(2) WAIVER.—If the laws, regulations, or or-  
9           ders of an applicant for a grant under this section  
10          conflict in any respect with the requirements of sub-  
11          paragraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), the  
12          Secretary shall waive such requirements to the ex-  
13          tent necessary to allow the grantee to carry out a co-  
14          prescribing program under this section.

15          “(g) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Grant funds  
16          under this section shall be used to supplement, not sup-  
17          plant, funding from other sources for the activities funded  
18          through the grant.

19          “(h) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant under this sec-  
20          tion, an eligible entity shall submit an application at such  
21          time, in such manner, and containing such information  
22          and assurances as the Secretary may require.

23          “(i) REPORTING.—Not later than the end of each of  
24          fiscal years 2024 and 2026, a grantee under this section  
25          shall submit to the Secretary, the Director of the Centers

1 for Disease Control and Prevention, and the appropriate  
2 congressional committees, and make publicly available, a  
3 report on the activities funded through the grant for each  
4 fiscal year covered by the report, including—

5           “(1) the allocation of funds for activities under  
6 subsection (e) versus activities under subsection (f);

7           “(2) a description of the research conducted by  
8 the grantee under subsection (e)(1)(A), including the  
9 results of such research;

10           “(3) an up-to-date version of the strategic plan  
11 developed under subsection (e)(1)(B); and

12           “(4) a description of the co-prescribing program  
13 under subsection (f), including an analysis of the ef-  
14 fectiveness of the program.

15           “(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16           “(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMIT-  
17 TEES.—The term ‘appropriate congressional com-  
18 mittees’ means the Committee on Energy and Com-  
19 merce of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
20 mittee on Housing, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
21 of the Senate.

22           “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
23 tity’ means any State, any Indian Tribe, the District  
24 of Columbia, or any territory of the United States.

1           “(3) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term ‘Indian Tribe’  
2           has the meaning given to such term in section 4 of  
3           the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assist-  
4           ance Act.

5           “(4) OPIOID OVERDOSE REVERSAL DRUG.—The  
6           term ‘opioid overdose reversal drug’ means—

7                   “(A) naloxone; or

8                   “(B) any other emergency opioid antago-  
9                   nist approved by the Food and Drug Adminis-  
10                  tration to treat an opioid overdose.

11          “(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
12          carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-  
13          priated such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal  
14          years 2022 through 2026.”.

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