

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6600

To authorize the Director of the National Institutes of Health to establish prize competitions to incentivize research by institutions of higher education on point-of-care testing for the detection of current or past infection with COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 23, 2020

Mr. BEYER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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 authorize the Director of the National Institutes of Health to establish prize competitions to incentivize research by institutions of higher education on point-of-care testing for the detection of current or past infection with COVID–19, 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 “Point-of-Care Testing
5 Prize Competitions Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Prize competitions have been used through-
4 out America's history, dating back to the designing
5 of the United States Capitol Building in 1792.

6 (2) The America COMPETES Reauthorization
7 Act of 2010 granted authority for Federal agencies
8 to carry out prize competitions in order to stimulate
9 innovation to advance each agency's mission.

10 (3) Prize competitions provide a benefit to the
11 American people by providing a high reward return
12 on taxpayer dollars.

13 (4) Since 2010, Federal agencies have con-
14 ducted nearly 1,000 prize competitions to help ad-
15 dress some of our Nation's greatest challenges.

16 (5) In order to mitigate the spread of COVID-
17 19, Americans need access to rapid diagnostic test-
18 ing at the point of care.

19 (6) Point-of-care infectious disease tests provide
20 results in real time, rather than in hours or days.

21 (7) Infectious disease tests are useful in re-
22 source-limited situations where there may not be ac-
23 cess to a central lab or where infrastructure is lim-
24 ited for transporting samples. Infectious disease
25 tests at the point of care can also lead to prompter

1 treatment, which can prevent infections from spread-
2 ing.

3 (8) Although other Federal agencies are cur-
4 rently involved in supporting and conducting re-
5 search into point-of-care testing, research spurred by
6 prize competitions at the National Institutes of
7 Health in consultation with the National Institute of
8 Standards and Technology can have broader benefits
9 for the American public.

10 (9) The National Institute of Standards and
11 Technology, due to its expertise in materials meas-
12 urement, including for DNA and other biological
13 materials, is well positioned to support the National
14 Institutes of Health in the development of reference
15 materials and best practices for the assessment and
16 validation of COVID–19 test results.

17 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PRIZE COMPETITION.**

18 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-
19 stitutes of Health, in consultation with the Director of the
20 National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall
21 carry out prize competitions pursuant to section 24 of the
22 Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15
23 U.S.C. 3719) to incentivize research by institutions of
24 higher education on point-of-care testing for the detection
25 of current or past infection with COVID–19.

1 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for funding
2 under this section, the point-of-care testing subject to the
3 proposed research must be capable of—

- 4 (1) producing results in 30 minutes or less; and
- 5 (2) testing multiple samples simultaneously.

6 (c) TIMING.—The Director of the National Institutes
7 of Health shall—

- 8 (1) publicize at least one prize competition pur-
9 suant to subsection (a) within 30 days after the date
10 of enactment of this Act; and

- 11 (2) publicize additional prize competitions pur-
12 suant to subsection (a) as determined appropriate by
13 the Director.

14 (d) NIST ASSISTANCE.—The Director of the Na-
15 tional Institute of Standards and Technology shall provide
16 assistance to the Director of the National Institutes of
17 Health on developing validation protocols and standards
18 for testing developed pursuant to this section.

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