

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8037

To continue to fund the IMPROVE initiative through the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 17, 2024

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

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## A BILL

To continue to fund the IMPROVE initiative through the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, 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 “NIH Implementing  
5 a Maternal health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for  
6 Everyone Act” or the “NIH IMPROVE Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.**

2 Subpart 7 of part C of title IV of the Public Health  
3 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding  
4 at the end the following:

5 **“SEC. 452H. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Institute  
7 shall continue to carry out the IMPROVE initiative (re-  
8 ferred to in this section as the ‘Initiative’) through the  
9 Institute for the following:

10 “(1) Advancing research to—

11 “(A) reduce preventable causes of maternal  
12 mortality and severe maternal morbidity;

13 “(B) reduce racial, ethnic, geographic, and  
14 socioeconomic disparities in maternal health  
15 outcomes; and

16 “(C) improve health for pregnant and  
17 postpartum individuals before, during, and after  
18 pregnancy.

19 “(2) Using an integrated approach to under-  
20 stand the biological, behavioral, sociocultural, and  
21 structural factors that affect maternal mortality and  
22 severe maternal morbidity by building an evidence  
23 base for improved care and outcomes in specific re-  
24 gions of the United States.

1           “(3) Targeting health disparities associated  
2           with maternal mortality and severe maternal mor-  
3           bidity by—

4                   “(A) implementing and evaluating commu-  
5                   nity-based interventions for disproportionately  
6                   affected individuals; and

7                   “(B) identifying risk factors and the un-  
8                   derlying biological mechanisms associated with  
9                   leading causes of maternal mortality and severe  
10                  maternal morbidity in the United States, in-  
11                  cluding cardiovascular disease, infection and  
12                  immunity, vitamin and nutrient deficiencies,  
13                  and mental and behavioral health.

14           “(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director of the Insti-  
15           tute may award grants or enter into contracts, cooperative  
16           agreements, or other transactions to carry out subsection  
17           (a), including with researchers from racial and ethnic mi-  
18           nority groups (as defined in section 1707(g)(1)).

19           “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
20           is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
21           \$53,400,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2031.”.

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