

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 994

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a public education campaign across all relevant programs of the Health Resources and Services Administration to increase oral health literacy and awareness.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 14, 2023

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

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize a public education campaign across all relevant programs of the Health Resources and Services Administration to increase oral health literacy and awareness.

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 “Oral Health Literacy
5 and Awareness Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. ORAL HEALTH LITERACY AND AWARENESS CAM-**
2 **PAIGN.**

3 The Public Health Service Act is amended by insert-
4 ing after section 340G–1 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 256g–
5 1) the following:

6 **“SEC. 340G–2. ORAL HEALTH LITERACY AND AWARENESS.**

7 “(a) **CAMPAIGN.**—The Secretary, acting through the
8 Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Ad-
9 ministration, shall establish a public education campaign
10 (referred to in this subsection as the ‘campaign’) across
11 all relevant programs of the Health Resources and Serv-
12 ices Administration (including the health center program,
13 oral health workforce programs, maternal and child health
14 programs, the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program, and rural
15 health programs) to increase oral health literacy and
16 awareness.

17 “(b) **STRATEGIES.**—In carrying out the campaign,
18 the Secretary shall identify oral health literacy and aware-
19 ness strategies that are evidence-based and focused on oral
20 health care education, including education on prevention
21 of oral disease such as early childhood and other caries,
22 periodontal disease, and oral cancer.

23 “(c) **FOCUS.**—The Secretary shall design the cam-
24 paign to communicate directly with specific populations,
25 including children, pregnant women, parents, the elderly,
26 individuals with disabilities, and ethnic and racial minority

1 populations, including Indians, Alaska Natives, and Na-
2 tive Hawaiians, in a culturally and linguistically appro-
3 priate manner.

4 “(d) OUTCOMES.—In carrying out the campaign, the
5 Secretary shall include a process for measuring outcomes
6 and effectiveness.

7 “(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 3 years
8 after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary
9 shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce
10 of the House of Representatives and the Committee on
11 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a
12 report on the outcomes and effectiveness of the campaign.

13 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
14 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
15 priated \$750,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
16 2027.”.

○