

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2931

To develop national milestones to measure success in curtailing the opioid epidemic.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2018

Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Ms. HASSAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To develop national milestones to measure success in curtailing the opioid epidemic.

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 “National Milestones
5 to Measure Progress in Ending the Opioid Epidemic Act
6 of 2018”.

7 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL MILESTONES TO MEASURE SUCCESS IN**
8 **CURTAILING THE OPIOID EPIDEMIC.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the
10 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and

1 Human Services (referred to in this Act as the “Sec-
2 retary”), in consultation with the Administrator of the
3 Drug Enforcement Administration and the Director of the
4 Office of National Drug Control Policy, shall develop na-
5 tional indicators to measure success in curtailing the
6 opioid epidemic, with the goal of significantly reversing the
7 toll of opioid misuse and opioid-related morbidity and mor-
8 tality in the United States within 5 years of such date
9 of enactment (referred to in this section as the “national
10 milestones”).

11 (b) NATIONAL MILESTONES TO END THE OPIOID
12 EPIDEMIC.—The national milestones under subsection (a)
13 shall include the following:

14 (1) The establishment of not fewer than 10 in-
15 dicators or metrics to accurately and expediently
16 measure progress in meeting the goal described in
17 subsection (a)(1), which shall include—

18 (A) a reduction in fatal and non-fatal
19 opioid overdoses;

20 (B) a reduction in emergency room visits
21 related to opioid misuse and abuse;

22 (C) an increase in public and provider edu-
23 cation, including a focus on reducing stigma as-
24 sociated with opioid use disorder;

1 (D) an increase in the number of individ-
2 uals in sustained recovery from opioid use dis-
3 order;

4 (E) a reduction in the number of co-infec-
5 tions associated with injection drug use, such as
6 HIV, viral hepatitis, and endocarditis, and an
7 expanded capacity to reduce initial infections
8 and enhance access to treatment;

9 (F) an increase in the number of providers
10 prescribing medically assisted treatment for
11 opioid use disorder in different settings, includ-
12 ing primary care, community health centers,
13 jails, and prisons;

14 (G) an increase in the number of harm re-
15 duction organizations, including syringe services
16 programs and naloxone distribution programs;

17 (H) an increase in the number of individ-
18 uals admitted to opioid use disorder treatment;
19 and

20 (I) additional indicators or metrics, such
21 as metrics pertaining to specific populations, in-
22 cluding women and children, American Indians
23 and Alaskan Natives, individuals living in rural
24 and non-urban areas, and justice-involved popu-
25 lations, that would further clarify the progress

1 made in addressing the opioid misuse and abuse
2 epidemic, as the Secretary determines appro-
3 priate.

4 (2) A reasonable goal, such as a percentage de-
5 crease or other specified metric, that signifies
6 progress in meeting the goal described in subsection
7 (a), and annual targets to help achieve that goal.

8 (c) EXTENSION OF PERIOD.—If the Secretary deter-
9 mines that the goal described in subsection (a) will not
10 be achieved with respect to any indicator or metric estab-
11 lished under subsection (b)(2) within 5 years of the date
12 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary may extend the
13 timeline for meeting such goal with respect to that indi-
14 cator or metric. The Secretary shall include with any such
15 extension a rationale for why additional time is needed and
16 a description of changes the Secretary will make in order
17 to achieve such goal with respect to the indicator or met-
18 ric.

19 (d) REPORTS.—During the 5-year period described in
20 subsection (a) or such extended period as the Secretary
21 may determine under subsection (c), the Secretary shall—

22 (1) submit to Congress annual reports on the
23 national milestones; and

24 (2) make each such report publicly available.

1 (e) ANNUAL STATUS UPDATE.—Beginning one year
2 after submission of the report under subsection (d) and
3 for each year thereafter that a report is required under
4 such subsection, the Secretary shall provide an update to
5 Congress on the progress of Federal agencies in achieving
6 the goals detailed in the national milestones. Each such
7 update shall include—

8 (1) the total Federal investment in programs
9 addressing the opioid epidemic and the amount in-
10 vested in each program, both by fiscal year and, for
11 programs created after fiscal year 2015, the total
12 spent since the program’s creation;

13 (2) an evaluation of the most and least effective
14 Federal programs intended to respond to the opioid
15 crisis;

16 (3) the progress made in the first year or since
17 the previous report, as applicable, in meeting each
18 indicator or metric in the national milestones; and

19 (4) the Secretary’s proposal for meeting each
20 specified indicator or metric in the proceeding year.

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