

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4958

To provide for a vaccine safety public awareness campaign.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 3, 2020

Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. THUNE, and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for a vaccine safety public awareness campaign.

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 “COVID–19 Vaccine
5 Awareness Support Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. VACCINE SAFETY PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
9 retary”), acting through the Director of the Centers for
10 Disease Control and Prevention and in coordination with
11 the Office of Minority Health and the Federal Office of

1 Rural Health Policy of the Department of Health and
2 Human Services, and, as appropriate, with the relevant
3 Offices of Minority Health of the Department of Health
4 and Human Services, the National Institute on Minority
5 Health and Health Disparities, and the Indian Health
6 Service, shall establish grant funding opportunities for eli-
7 gible entities to carry out a national, evidence-based cam-
8 paign to disseminate COVID–19 vaccination information.

9 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a
10 grant under this section, an entity shall—

11 (1) be a State, local, Tribal, or territorial health
12 department, an urban Indian organization (as de-
13 fined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Im-
14 provement Act (25 U.S.C. 1603)), a nonprofit com-
15 munity-based organization, or a nonprofit faith-
16 based organization; and

17 (2) agree to—

18 (A) work in consultation with relevant
19 State and local health officials, health care pro-
20 viders, health care facilities, and other appro-
21 priate stakeholders to carry the campaign under
22 this section; and

23 (B) submit to the Secretary, within 30
24 days of receipt of a grant, a proposed plan for
25 use of the grant funds.

1 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Entities receiving a grant
3 under this section shall use such grant funds to—

4 (A) increase awareness and knowledge of
5 the safety and effectiveness of vaccines ap-
6 proved or authorized by the Food and Drug Ad-
7 ministration for the prevention and control of
8 COVID–19 and the benefit of receiving a
9 COVID–19 vaccine;

10 (B) provide information on where the vac-
11 cine can be obtained; and

12 (C) create multilingual and culturally ap-
13 propriate messaging to disseminate scientific
14 and evidence-based information related to vac-
15 cines.

16 (2) DETAILS OF CAMPAIGNS.—Information dis-
17 seminated by an entity receiving a grant under this
18 section shall—

19 (A) be based on available scientific evi-
20 dence;

21 (B) increase awareness and knowledge of
22 COVID–19, including countering stigma associ-
23 ated with COVID–19;

24 (C) improve information on the availability
25 of COVID–19 vaccines, including countering

1 misinformation and disinformation with evi-
2 dence-based scientific rebuttals; and

3 (D) improve awareness and knowledge of
4 coverage of COVID–19 vaccines.

5 (d) **PRIORITIZATION.**—In awarding grants under this
6 section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
7 in either urban or rural communities (or a combination
8 of urban and rural communities) that serve vulnerable
9 populations, including communities of color, which may in-
10 clude low-income, uninsured, and medically underserved
11 individuals or populations with historically low rates of re-
12 ceiving vaccines.

13 (e) **TIMING.**—The Secretary shall awards the grants
14 under this section not later than 30 days after the earlier
15 of—

16 (1) the date on which the Food and Drug Ad-
17 ministration licenses a COVID–19 vaccine under
18 section 351 of the Public Health Service Act (42
19 U.S.C. 262); or

20 (2) the date on which a manufacturer begins to
21 distribute a COVID–19 vaccine to public or private
22 entities pursuant to an emergency use authorization
23 under section 564 of the Federal Food, Drug, and
24 Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 360bbb–3).

25 (f) **EVALUATION.**—The Secretary shall—

1 (1) conduct qualitative assessments regarding
2 the campaign under this section; and

3 (2) not later than one year after the date of en-
4 actment of this Act, prepare and submit to the Com-
5 mittee on Appropriations and the Committee on
6 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
7 ate and the Committee on Appropriations and the
8 Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
9 of Representatives an evaluation of the campaign
10 under this section.

11 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
12 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2021.

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