

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1798

To establish grant programs to improve the health of border area residents and for all hazards preparedness in the border area including bioterrorism and infectious disease, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 17, 2007

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mrs. HUTCHISON, Mr. CORNYN, and Mrs. BOXER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish grant programs to improve the health of border area residents and for all hazards preparedness in the border area including bioterrorism and infectious disease, 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 “Border Health Secu-
5 rity Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) BORDER AREA.—The term “border area”
2 has the meaning given the term “United States-
3 Mexico Border Area” in section 8 of the United
4 States-Mexico Border Health Commission Act (22
5 U.S.C. 290n–6).

6 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
7 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

8 **SEC. 3. BORDER HEALTH GRANTS.**

9 (a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,
10 the term “eligible entity” means a State, public institution
11 of higher education, local government, tribal government,
12 nonprofit health organization, trauma center, or commu-
13 nity health center receiving assistance under section 330
14 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b), that
15 is located in the border area.

16 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—From funds appropriated
17 under subsection (f), the Secretary, acting through the
18 United States members of the United States-Mexico Bor-
19 der Health Commission, shall award grants to eligible en-
20 tities to address priorities and recommendations to im-
21 prove the health of border area residents that are estab-
22 lished by—

23 (1) the United States members of the United
24 States-Mexico Border Health Commission;

25 (2) the State border health offices; and

1 (3) the Secretary.

2 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires a
3 grant under subsection (b) shall submit an application to
4 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
5 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

6 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
7 a grant under subsection (b) shall use the grant funds
8 for—

9 (1) programs relating to—

10 (A) maternal and child health;

11 (B) primary care and preventative health;

12 (C) public health and public health infra-
13 structure;

14 (D) health promotion;

15 (E) oral health;

16 (F) behavioral and mental health;

17 (G) substance abuse;

18 (H) health conditions that have a high
19 prevalence in the border area;

20 (I) medical and health services research;

21 (J) workforce training and development;

22 (K) community health workers or
23 promotoras;

1 (L) health care infrastructure problems in
2 the border area (including planning and con-
3 struction grants);

4 (M) health disparities in the border area;

5 (N) environmental health;

6 (O) health education;

7 (P) outreach and enrollment services with
8 respect to Federal programs (including pro-
9 grams authorized under titles XIX and XXI of
10 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 and
11 1397aa));

12 (Q) trauma care;

13 (R) infectious disease testing and moni-
14 toring;

15 (S) health research with an emphasis on
16 infectious disease; and

17 (T) cross-border health surveillance; and

18 (2) other programs determined appropriate by
19 the Secretary.

20 (e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts pro-
21 vided to an eligible entity awarded a grant under sub-
22 section (b) shall be used to supplement and not supplant
23 other funds available to the eligible entity to carry out the
24 activities described in subsection (d).

1 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008 and
4 each succeeding fiscal year.

5 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR ALL HAZARDS PREPAREDNESS IN THE**
6 **BORDER AREA INCLUDING BIOTERRORISM**
7 **AND INFECTIOUS DISEASE.**

8 (a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,
9 the term “eligible entity” means a State, local govern-
10 ment, tribal government, trauma centers, regional trauma
11 center coordinating entity, or public health entity.

12 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—From funds appropriated
13 under subsection (e), the Secretary shall award grants to
14 eligible entities for all hazards preparedness in the border
15 area including bioterrorism and infectious disease.

16 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires a
17 grant under this section shall submit an application to the
18 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
19 such information as the Secretary may require.

20 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
21 a grant under subsection (b) shall use the grant funds to,
22 in coordination with State and local all hazards pro-
23 grams—

1 (1) develop and implement all hazards pre-
2 paredness plans and readiness assessments and pur-
3 chase items necessary for such plans;

4 (2) coordinate all hazard and emergency pre-
5 paredness planning in the region;

6 (3) improve infrastructure, including surge ca-
7 pacity syndromic surveillance, laboratory capacity,
8 and isolation/decontamination capacity;

9 (4) create a health alert network, including risk
10 communication and information dissemination;

11 (5) educate and train clinicians, epidemiolo-
12 gists, laboratories, and emergency personnel;

13 (6) implement electronic data systems to coordi-
14 nate the triage, transportation, and treatment of
15 multi-casualty incident victims;

16 (7) provide infectious disease testing in the bor-
17 der area; and

18 (8) carry out such other activities identified by
19 the Secretary, the United States-Mexico Border
20 Health Commission, State and local public health of-
21 fices, and border health offices.

22 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
23 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
24 \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums as may
25 be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

1 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER HEALTH COMMIS-**
2 **SION ACT AMENDMENTS.**

3 The United States-Mexico Border Health Commis-
4 sion Act (22 U.S.C. 290n et seq.) is amended by adding
5 at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 “There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
8 this Act \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008 and such sums
9 as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

10 **SEC. 6. COORDINATION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SUR-**
11 **VEILLANCE.**

12 The Secretary may coordinate with the Secretary of
13 Homeland Security in establishing a health alert system
14 that—

15 (1) alerts clinicians and public health officials
16 of emerging disease clusters and syndromes along
17 the border area; and

18 (2) is alerted to signs of health threats, disas-
19 ters of mass scale, or bioterrorism along the border
20 area.

21 **SEC. 7. BINATIONAL HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE AND**
22 **HEALTH INSURANCE.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services shall enter into a contract with the Insti-
25 tute of Medicine for the conduct of a study concerning
26 binational health infrastructure (including trauma and

1 emergency care) and health insurance efforts. In con-
2 ducting such study, the Institute shall solicit input from
3 border health experts and health insurance issuers.

4 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date
5 on which the Secretary of Health and Human Services en-
6 ters into the contract under subsection (a), the Institute
7 of Medicine shall submit to the Secretary and the appro-
8 priate committees of Congress a report concerning the
9 study conducted under such contract. Such report shall
10 include the recommendations of the Institute on ways to
11 expand or improve binational health infrastructure and
12 health insurance efforts.

13 **SEC. 8. PROVISION OF RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE**
14 **TO CONGRESS.**

15 Section 5 of the United States-Mexico Border Health
16 Commission Act (22 U.S.C. 290n–3) is amended by add-
17 ing at the end the following:

18 “(d) PROVIDING ADVICE AND RECOMMENDATIONS
19 TO CONGRESS.—A member of the Commission, or an indi-
20 vidual who is on the staff of the Commission, may at any
21 time provide advice or recommendations to Congress con-
22 cerning issues that are considered by the Commission.
23 Such advice or recommendations may be provided whether
24 or not a request for such is made by a member of Congress
25 and regardless of whether the member or individual is au-

- 1 thORIZED to provide such advice or recommendations by the
- 2 Commission or any other Federal official.”.

