

110TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 5979

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the national collection of data on stillbirths in a standardized manner, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 6, 2008

Mr. KING of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the national collection of data on stillbirths in a standardized manner, 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 “Stillbirth Awareness  
5 and Research Act of 2008”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) While States issue both a birth and a death  
9 certificate when a baby lives for only moments out-

1 side the womb, most States issue only a death cer-  
2 tificate in the case of a stillbirth.

3 (2) Almost half of the States have enacted leg-  
4 islation called MISSing Angels bills allowing a State  
5 to issue a “Certificate of Birth Resulting in Still-  
6 birth”, and many other States are considering such  
7 legislation.

8 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the  
9 Congress that more States should enact legislation that  
10 allows the issuance of a “Certificate of Birth Resulting  
11 in Stillbirth” when the pregnancy results in a stillbirth.

12 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL STILLBIRTH REGISTRY.**

13 Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
14 (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after sec-  
15 tion 317S the following:

16 **“SEC. 317T. NATIONAL STILLBIRTH REGISTRY.**

17 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—For the purposes described  
18 in subsection (b), the Secretary, acting through the Direc-  
19 tor of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention,  
20 shall, by grant or contract, establish and maintain a sci-  
21 entific registry of stillbirths in the United States (in this  
22 section referred to as the ‘registry’).

23 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the registry are—

1           “(1) to provide a national repository for report-  
2           ing and maintaining in a consistent manner data on  
3           stillbirths; and

4           “(2) to make such data available for research  
5           on the causes and prevention of stillbirths.

6           “(c) CONTENT.—The registry shall include, with re-  
7           spect to each stillbirth, information on the stillborn fetus  
8           and the mother’s health and pregnancy as collected and  
9           submitted by States on the U.S. Standard Report of Fetal  
10          Death. In submitting such information, the Director of the  
11          Centers for Disease Control and Prevention shall require  
12          States to use the standard definition of stillbirth and the  
13          standard protocol for stillbirth data collection and surveil-  
14          lance as determined pursuant to subsection (d).

15          “(d) DETERMINATION OF STANDARD STILLBIRTH  
16          DEFINITION AND PROTOCOL.—

17                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this sec-  
18                 tion, the Secretary shall provide for the development  
19                 of the following:

20                         “(A) A standard definition of stillbirth.

21                         “(B) A standard protocol for stillbirth data  
22                         collection and surveillance.

23                 “(2) CONSULTATION.—The Secretary shall en-  
24                 sure that the standard definition and protocol de-  
25                 scribed paragraph (1) are developed under such

1 paragraph in a manner that ensures the consultation  
2 of representatives of health care organizations, State  
3 and local governments, and other interested entities  
4 specified by the Secretary.”.

5 **SEC. 4. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON NIH FUNDING FOR STILL-**  
6 **BIRTH RESEARCH.**

7 It is the sense of the Congress that the Director of  
8 the National Institutes of Health should increase the allo-  
9 cation of funds and other resources for stillbirth research.

10 **SEC. 5. NATIONAL PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

11 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
12 Human Services shall carry out a national campaign to  
13 increase public awareness and knowledge of stillbirths and  
14 public and State awareness of the standard stillbirth defi-  
15 nition and standard protocol for stillbirth data collection  
16 and surveillance under section 306(h)(3) of the Public  
17 Health Service Act, as added by section 3.

18 (b) MEASURES TO REDUCE THE INCIDENCE OF  
19 STILLBIRTHS.—Activities under the national campaign  
20 under subsection (a) shall include—

21 (1) the dissemination of information on meas-  
22 ures for mothers to maintain a healthy pregnancy  
23 and assess fetal health;

1           (2) the dissemination of information on good  
2 prenatal care practices such as not drinking alcohol  
3 or smoking; and

4           (3) the promotion of fetal movement awareness  
5 and taking proactive steps to monitor a baby's move-  
6 ment beginning at approximately 28 weeks into the  
7 pregnancy.

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