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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for removing transportation barriers to accessing vaccines for SARS-CoV-2 , including booster vaccines, for individuals from low-income communities, minority communities, or other communities in which transportation poses a barrier to health care access, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BARRAGÁN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for removing transportation barriers to accessing vaccines for SARS-CoV-2 , including booster vaccines, for individuals from low-income communities, minority communities, or other communities in which transportation poses a barrier to health care access, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “COVID Vaccine Trans-
3 portation Access Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR CORONAVIRUS VACCINE AC-
5 CESS AND MOBILITY.**

6 (a) GENERAL AUTHORITY.—

7 (1) AWARDS.—The Secretary shall award
8 grants to qualified community organizations to as-
9 sist in financing projects to remove transportation
10 barriers to accessing vaccines for SARS-CoV-2 , in-
11 cluding booster vaccines, for individuals from low-in-
12 come communities, minority communities, or other
13 communities in which transportation poses a barrier
14 to health care access.

15 (2) TRANSFER OF DUTIES.—The Secretary
16 shall—

17 (A) enter into agreements with State
18 health agencies for purposes of carrying out the
19 duties assigned to the Secretary under this sec-
20 tion; and

21 (B) transfer to such agencies for such pur-
22 poses funds appropriated to carry out this sec-
23 tion.

24 (b) APPLICATION.—A qualified community organiza-
25 tion seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the
26 Secretary an application that contains—

1 (1) a description of the project to be funded
2 through the grant;

3 (2) an identification of all project partners and
4 their specific role in the proposed project, including
5 private for-profit and nonprofit entities engaged in
6 the coordination of transportation services for the
7 project; and

8 (3) specific performance measures the qualified
9 community organization will use to reduce cancella-
10 tions or missed appointments.

11 (c) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—Each grant award-
12 ed under subsection (a) shall be for a period of perform-
13 ance of no less than 6 months.

14 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—Each grant awarded under
15 subsection (a)—

16 (1) shall be used to develop, expand, and en-
17 hance access to transportation to and from sites for
18 receipt of a vaccine for SARS-CoV-2, including a
19 booster vaccine, by individuals from low-income com-
20 munities, minority communities, or other commu-
21 nities in which transportation poses a barrier to
22 health care access; and

23 (2) may be used to—

24 (A) provide prescheduled or on-demand
25 transportation to and from a site for adminis-

1 tration of a SARS–CoV–2 vaccine, including a
2 booster vaccine; or

3 (B) provide first and last mile transpor-
4 tation services for appointments for administra-
5 tion of such a vaccine.

6 (e) REPORT.—As a condition on receipt of a grant
7 under this section, a grantee shall agree to submit a re-
8 port, not later than 6 months after the completion of the
9 period of performance of the grant—

10 (1) to the Secretary, the Committee on Energy
11 and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and
12 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
13 Pensions of the Senate; and

14 (2) containing such information the Secretary
15 determines necessary to evaluate performance under
16 the grant.

17 (f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

18 (1) FIRST AND LAST MILE.—The term “first
19 and last mile” means, with respect to transportation
20 services and an individual’s trip to and from a vac-
21 eine appointment—

22 (A) transportation—

23 (i) between the individual’s point of
24 trip origin and a source of public transit;
25 and

1 (ii) between a source of public transit
2 and the individual's destination; or

3 (B) where no source of public transit is
4 available, transportation between the individ-
5 ual's point of trip origin and the individual's
6 destination.

7 (2) QUALIFIED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.—

8 The term “qualified community organization” means
9 an organization that—

10 (A) is a nonprofit organization; and

11 (B) has experience in—

12 (i) managing Federal grants; and

13 (ii) providing services to low-income
14 or minority communities or communities
15 that disproportionately experience dispari-
16 ties in health status and health care ac-
17 cess.

18 (3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
19 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

20 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
22 necessary to carry out this section.

23 **SEC. 3. FEDERAL MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PERCENTAGE.**

24 Section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
25 1396d(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following

1 new sentence: “Notwithstanding the first sentence of this
2 subsection, the Federal medical assistance percentage
3 shall be 100 per centum with respect to amounts expended
4 for nonemergency transportation benefits provided to indi-
5 viduals eligible for medical assistance under this sub-
6 chapter that are attributable to transportation costs in-
7 curred on or after the date of the enactment of this sen-
8 tence related to providing coronavirus vaccines to such in-
9 dividuals under the State plan.”.