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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants for removing transportation barriers to accessing eligible 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 eligible 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 “Vaccine Transpor-
3 tation Access Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR VACCINE ACCESS AND MO-**
5 **BILITY.**

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 eligible vaccines for individuals
11 from low-income communities, minority commu-
12 nities, or other communities in which transportation
13 poses a barrier to health care access.

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

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

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

23 (b) APPLICATION.—A qualified community organiza-
24 tion seeking a grant under this section shall submit to the
25 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 not 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 an eligible vaccine by individuals from low-
19 income communities, minority communities, or other
20 communities in which transportation poses a barrier
21 to health care access; and

22 (2) may be used to—

23 (A) provide prescheduled or on-demand
24 transportation to and from a site for adminis-
25 tration of an eligible vaccine; or

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

4 (e) REPORTING.—

5 (1) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—As a condition on re-
6 ceipt of a grant under this section, a grantee shall
7 agree to submit to the Secretary, not later than 6
8 months after the completion of the period of per-
9 formance of the grant, a report containing such in-
10 formation as the Secretary determines necessary to
11 evaluate performance under the grant.

12 (2) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later
13 than one year after the date of enactment of this
14 Act, and annually thereafter during the term of the
15 grant program under this section, the Secretary
16 shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Com-
17 merce of the House of Representatives and the Com-
18 mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
19 of the Senate a report containing a summary of the
20 information received by the Secretary during the
21 preceding year under paragraph (1).

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

23 (1) ELIGIBLE VACCINE.—The term “eligible
24 vaccine” means any immunization that—

1 (A) had in effect a recommendation from
2 the Advisory Committee on Immunization Prac-
3 tices of the Centers for Disease Control and
4 Prevention with respect to the individual in-
5 volved as of October 25, 2024, including such
6 an immunization as updated or changed after
7 that date under a supplement to a biologics li-
8 cense application approved by the Food and
9 Drug Administration; or

10 (B) is recommended under evidenced-
11 based, clinical care guidelines published by one
12 or more United States professional medical so-
13 cieties.

14 (2) FIRST AND LAST MILE.—The term “first
15 and last mile” means, with respect to transportation
16 services and an individual’s trip to and from a vac-
17 cine appointment—

18 (A) transportation—

19 (i) between the individual’s point of
20 trip origin and a source of public transit;
21 and

22 (ii) between a source of public transit
23 and the individual’s destination; or

24 (B) where no source of public transit is
25 available, transportation between the individ-

1 ual’s point of trip origin and the individual’s
2 destination.

3 (3) QUALIFIED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION.—

4 The term “qualified community organization” means
5 an organization that—

6 (A) is a nonprofit organization; and

7 (B) has experience in—

8 (i) managing Federal grants; and

9 (ii) providing services to low-income
10 or minority communities or communities
11 that disproportionately experience dispari-
12 ties in health status and health care ac-
13 cess.

14 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
15 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

16 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
18 necessary to carry out this section.

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

20 Section 1905(b) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
21 1396d(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following
22 new sentence: “Notwithstanding the first sentence of this
23 subsection, the Federal medical assistance percentage
24 shall be 100 per centum with respect to amounts expended
25 for nonemergency transportation benefits provided to indi-

1 viduals eligible for medical assistance under this sub-
2 chapter that are attributable to transportation costs in-
3 curred on or after the date of the enactment of this sen-
4 tence related to providing eligible vaccines (as defined in
5 section 2(f) of the Vaccine Transportation Access Act) to
6 such individuals under the State plan.”.