

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 6238

To establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National Institutes of Health.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 20, 2025

Ms. UNDERWOOD (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To establish the IMPROVE Initiative within the National Institutes of Health.

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 “NIH Implementing  
5 a Maternal health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for  
6 Everyone” or the “NIH IMPROVE Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.**

8 Part B of title IV of the Public Health Service Act  
9 (42 U.S.C. 284 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
10 the following:

1 **“SEC. 409K. IMPROVE INITIATIVE.**

2 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall con-  
3 tinue to carry out a program to improve maternal health  
4 outcomes, to be known as the Implementing a Maternal  
5 health and PRegnancy Outcomes Vision for Everyone Ini-  
6 tiative or the ‘IMPROVE Initiative’ (referred to in this  
7 section as the ‘Initiative’).

8 “(b) OBJECTIVES.—The Initiative shall—

9 “(1) advance research to—

10 “(A) reduce preventable causes of maternal  
11 mortality and severe maternal morbidity;

12 “(B) reduce health disparities related to  
13 maternal health outcomes, including such dis-  
14 parities associated with populations with dis-  
15 proportionately high rates of maternal mortality  
16 and severe maternal morbidity relative to the  
17 national rate; and

18 “(C) improve health for pregnant and  
19 postpartum women before, during, and after  
20 pregnancy;

21 “(2) use an integrated approach to understand  
22 the factors, including biological, behavioral, and  
23 other factors, that affect maternal mortality and se-  
24 vere maternal morbidity by building an evidence  
25 base for improved outcomes in specific regions of the  
26 United States; and

1           “(3) target health disparities associated with  
2           maternal mortality and severe maternal morbidity  
3           by—

4                   “(A) implementing and evaluating commu-  
5                   nity-based interventions for disproportionately  
6                   affected women; and

7                   “(B) identifying risk factors and the un-  
8                   derlying biological mechanisms associated with  
9                   leading causes of maternal mortality and severe  
10                  maternal morbidity in the United States.

11          “(c) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Director of NIH may  
12          award grants or enter into contracts, cooperative agree-  
13          ments, or other transactions to carry out this section.

14          “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15          is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
16          \$73,400,000 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2031.”.

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