

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

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

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. BRITT (for herself and Mr. BOOKER) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

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.”.