

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To improve research and data collection on stillbirths, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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Mr. BOOKER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To improve research and data collection on stillbirths, 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 Health Im-  
5 provement and Education for Autumn Act of 2023” or  
6 the “SHINE for Autumn Act of 2023”.

7 **SEC. 2. STILLBIRTH RESEARCH AND DATA COLLECTION IM-**  
8 **PROVEMENTS.**

9 Title III of the Public Health Service Act is amended  
10 by inserting after section 317L–1 of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
11 247b–13a) the following:

1 **“SEC. 317L-2. STILLBIRTH RESEARCH AND DATA COLLEC-**  
2 **TION IMPROVEMENTS.**

3 “(a) STILLBIRTH SURVEILLANCE AND RISK FACTOR  
4 STUDIES.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award  
6 grants to States for purposes of—

7 “(A) conducting surveillance and collecting  
8 data, including from existing datasets like State  
9 or sub-State maternal mortality data and Fetal  
10 and Infant Mortality Review data, with respect  
11 to stillbirths for public health and research pur-  
12 poses;

13 “(B) building State and local public health  
14 capacity to assess stillbirth data; and

15 “(C) collecting and reporting data on still-  
16 birth risk factors, including any quantifiable  
17 outcomes with respect to such risk factors.

18 “(2) CONDITION.—As a condition of receipt of  
19 funds under this section, all data collected shall be  
20 in a manner that protects personal privacy and in a  
21 manner that is consistent with applicable Federal  
22 and State privacy law, at a minimum.

23 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
24 To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to  
25 be appropriated \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
26 2024 through 2028.

1           “(b) GUIDELINES AND EDUCATIONAL AWARENESS  
2 MATERIALS.—

3           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

4                   “(A) issue guidelines to State departments  
5 of health and State and local vital statistics  
6 units on—

7                           “(i) collecting data on stillbirth from  
8 health care providers, and with the consent  
9 of the woman who experienced the still-  
10 birth, including any such data with respect  
11 to the clinical history, postmortem exam-  
12 ination, and placental pathology; and

13                           “(ii) improving processes and training  
14 related to stillbirth data collection and re-  
15 porting to ensure standardization and com-  
16 pleteness of data; and

17                   “(B) develop, and make publicly available,  
18 educational awareness materials on stillbirths.

19           “(2) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out para-  
20 graph (1), the Secretary may consult with—

21                   “(A) national health care professional as-  
22 sociations;

23                   “(B) national associations representing  
24 State and local public health officials;

1                   “(C) organizations that assist families with  
2                   burial support and bereavement services;

3                   “(D) nurses and nurse practitioners;

4                   “(E) obstetricians and gynecologists;

5                   “(F) pediatricians;

6                   “(G) maternal-fetal medicine specialists;

7                   “(H) nurse midwives and midwives;

8                   “(I) mental health professionals;

9                   “(J) statisticians;

10                  “(K) individuals who have experienced a  
11                  stillbirth; and

12                  “(L) advocacy organizations representing  
13                  such individuals.

14                  “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

15                  To carry out this subsection, there is authorized to  
16                  be appropriated \$1,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
17                  2024 through 2028.

18                  “(c) VITAL STATISTICS UNIT DEFINED.—In this sec-  
19                  tion, the term ‘vital statistics unit’ means the entity that  
20                  is responsible for maintaining vital records for a State,  
21                  or a political subdivision of such State, including official  
22                  records of live births, deaths, fetal deaths, marriages, di-  
23                  vorces, and annulments.”.

1 **SEC. 3. PERINATAL PATHOLOGY FELLOWSHIPS.**

2 The Public Health Service Act is amended by insert-  
3 ing after section 1122 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 300e–12)  
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 1123. IMPROVING PERINATAL PATHOLOGY.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall incorporate  
7 into an existing training program a Perinatal Pathology  
8 Fellowship Program, a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship  
9 on Factors Associated with Stillbirth Program, or both.

10 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—Each program incorporated under  
11 subsection (a) shall—

12 “(1) provide training in perinatal autopsy pa-  
13 thology;

14 “(2) provide practice-based learning opportuni-  
15 ties to foster exchange and connection with State ef-  
16 forts concerning fetal death review that are sup-  
17 ported under title V of the Social Security Act;

18 “(3) conduct research on, and improve data col-  
19 lection with respect to, stillbirths, including through  
20 fetal autopsies; and

21 “(4) address challenges in stillbirth education,  
22 research, and data collection.

23 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
24 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
25 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.”.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORTS.**

2 (a) **EDUCATIONAL GUIDELINES REPORT.**—

3 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than five years  
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Sec-  
5 retary of Health and Human Services shall publish  
6 on a public website of the Department of Health and  
7 Human Services a report with educational guidelines  
8 on stillbirth and stillbirth risk factors.

9 (2) **CONTENTS.**—Such report shall include, to  
10 the extent practicable and appropriate, the guide-  
11 lines issued and educational awareness materials de-  
12 veloped under section 317L–2 of the Public Health  
13 Service Act, as added by section 2 of this Act.

14 (b) **PROGRESS REPORT.**—Not later than five years  
15 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
16 Health and Human Services shall submit to the Congress  
17 a comprehensive report on the progress and effectiveness  
18 of each program under section 1123 of the Public Health  
19 Service Act, as added by section 3 of this Act.