

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3842

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Healthy Start for Infants Program.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 26, 2017

Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia, and Mr. YARMUTH) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize the Healthy Start for Infants Program.

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 “Healthy Start Reau-  
5 thorization Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) The Department of Health and Human  
9 Services puts the national infant mortality rate at  
10 5.96 deaths per 1,000 live births.

1           (2) Despite national reductions in infant mor-  
2           tality, a racial disparity in infant mortality rates ex-  
3           ists in every State and territory, with non-Hispanic  
4           Black infants more than twice as likely to die before  
5           their first birthday than non-Hispanic White infants.

6           (3) Infants born to low-income women are more  
7           likely to die before their first birthday than infants  
8           born in higher-income households.

9           (4) The three leading clinical causes of infant  
10          death are prematurity due to preterm birth and low  
11          birthweight, birth defects, and sleep-related deaths.

12          (5) The most recent data from the Centers for  
13          Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) shows that  
14          the rate of preterm live births is twice the national  
15          rate for African-American women, 1.5 times the na-  
16          tional rate for American Indians and Alaskan Na-  
17          tives, and 1.4 times the national rate for Latinos.

18          (6) The long-term medical and social services  
19          associated with low birthweight infants and children  
20          born premature cost American taxpayers \$26.2 bil-  
21          lion per year, with first-year expenses for the small-  
22          est surviving babies averaging \$273,900.

23          (7) Employers pay 12 times more in health care  
24          costs for babies born with complications, and pre-

1 natal interventions that result in full-term birth save  
2 employers \$49,760.

3 (8) Women can reduce the risk of mortality to  
4 their infants if they have access to culturally appro-  
5 priate, accurate information from trusted providers  
6 about how to improve their health practices and be-  
7 haviors during preconception, pregnancy, and  
8 postpartum.

9 (9) For 25 years, the Healthy Start for Infants  
10 Program has identified and addressed the aforemen-  
11 tioned knowledge gaps, clinical contributors, and up-  
12 stream social and generational factors leading to in-  
13 fant death, targeting communities with infant mor-  
14 tality rates at least 1.5 times the national rate with  
15 the effect of reducing the prevalence of infant mor-  
16 tality in Healthy Start communities to below the na-  
17 tional rate.

18 (10) In collaboration with its partners, includ-  
19 ing the National Healthy Start Association, March  
20 of Dimes, and the Fetal and Infant Mortality Re-  
21 view Program, the Healthy Start for Infants Pro-  
22 gram has recognized that a relationship-centered,  
23 community-based approach to the early delivery of  
24 coordinated services to women and families as well

1 as an ongoing, comprehensive approach to women’s  
2 health care improve perinatal outcomes.

3 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF HEALTHY START FOR IN-**  
4 **FANTS PROGRAM.**

5 Subsection (e)(1) of section 330H of the Public  
6 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254c–8) is amended—

7 (1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “2008”  
8 and inserting “2018”; and

9 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “2009  
10 through 2013” and inserting “2010 through 2023”.

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