

Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies

FY 2026 – Republican en bloc Amendment

IN THE BILL:

At the end of Title II, before the short title, insert the following (and conform the Committee Report accordingly):

Sec. _____. None of the funds made available by this Act may be used for research on vertebrate animals for the purpose of studying the effects of drugs, surgery, or other interventions to alter the human body (including by disrupting the body's development, inhibiting its natural functions, or modifying its appearance) to no longer correspond to its biological sex.

IN THE REPORT:

On Page 18, strike the paragraph titled “*U.S. Defense Industrial Base*” and replace it with the following:

U.S. Defense Industrial Base.—The Committee notes that the DOL has not updated the Schedule A Shortage Occupation list to include more than two occupations since 2005. The Committee directs DOL to evaluate the H-1B program to better prioritize occupations including STEM and other non-STEM occupations that are critical to the U.S. defense industrial base. Additionally, the Committee directs DOL to evaluate the wage disparity between American workers in these occupations and workers in these occupations brought in under both the Schedule A Shortage Occupation list and the H-1B visa program, and evaluate what effect these programs have on U.S. citizens competing for STEM and other similar occupations. The Committee requests an update on this effort within 90 days of the enactment of the Act.

On page 30, before the paragraph titled “*Skilled Trades Workforce Development Outreach Coordination*”, insert the following as a new paragraph:

Office of Immigration Policy.—The Committee recognizes that employment visas are an important critical tool for American employers to have a timely, qualified, and stable workforce and commends the establishment of the Office of Immigration Policy to carry out the Department’s responsibilities under the Immigration and Nationality Act, including oversight, strategic planning, and management of foreign labor certifications—a mandatory piece of the foreign labor process. The Committee encourages the Department to continue to utilize all statutory and regulatory authorities to expeditiously manage and process foreign labor certifications.

On page 69, in the paragraph titled “*Cancer Prevention and Control*”, strike “\$5,500,000” and replace it with “5,499,000”.

On Page 79, strike the paragraph titled “*Drowning Prevention*” and replace it with the following:

Drowning Prevention.—The Committee includes \$2,000,000 to prevent fatal drownings. Drowning is the leading cause of death among children 1–4 and the second leading cause of unintentional death among children 5–14. The funding will allow CDC to support proven drowning prevention programs with national organizations working with youth at greater risk including children who have autism spectrum disorder, to support State drowning surveillance efforts, and to begin implementation of a national plan on water safety.

On page 84, in the table under the header for “GLOBAL HEALTH”, strike “FY 2025 Enacted” and replace it with “FY 2024 Enacted”.

On page 85, in the table under the header for “CDC-WIDE ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAM SUPPORT”, strike “FY 2025 Enacted” and replace it with “FY 2024 Enacted”.

On page 86, before the paragraph titled “*Food Allergies*”, insert the following as a new paragraph:

Eating Disorders and Assisted Suicide.—The Committee is concerned with the potential practice of referring, counseling, prescribing, or administering assisted suicide to individuals suffering from chronic mental health conditions, including anorexia and other eating disorders. The Committee directs the CDC Director to submit a report within 180 days of the enactment of this Act to the Committee on instances where providers have referred, counseled, prescribed, or administered assisted suicide to individuals suffering from chronic mental health conditions, including anorexia or other eating disorders.

On page 123, in the paragraph titled “*Alternatives to Animal Testing*”, strike the last sentence of such paragraph and insert the following as a new paragraph immediately thereafter:

Additionally, to encourage investigators to consider the use of NAMs and promote the competitive evaluation of applications that use NAMs, the Committee encourages NIH to include grant proposal reviewers with expertise in NAMs and provide reviewers with access to appropriate resources as relates to evaluating applications that may include NAMs, such as a reference librarian with expertise in evaluating the adequacy of the search methods used by the applicant for non-animal methods. The Committee requests an update in the fiscal year 2027 congressional justification on the feasibility of such actions and progress made on implementation.

On page 164, before the paragraph titled “*Protecting Medicare Beneficiary Access to Therapy*”, insert the following as a new paragraph:

Protecting Essential Medicines.—The Committee recognizes the critical importance of maintaining domestic manufacturing capacity for essential medications. The Committee is concerned that the statutory design of the Manufacturer Discount Program (MDP) intended for brand products inadvertently includes products that were approved under a New Drug Application (NDA) rather than a generic Abbreviated New Drug Application (ANDA) due solely to unique FDA regulatory circumstances. The Committee requests the Department provide an update in the fiscal year 2027 congressional justification specifying the current impact on patients, steps that can be taken by CMS and Congress to address this issue, and efforts to support domestic manufacturers producing essential medicines.

On page 166, before the paragraph titled “*Whole Child Health*”, insert the following as a new paragraph:

Strengthening Medicare Advantage Networks for Cancer Patients.—The Committee acknowledges the remarkable advances in more effective treatments and cures for patients affected by cancer, a disease which afflicts more than 2 million Americans each year. Approximately 60 percent of cancer patients are aged 65 or older and rely on the Medicare program as their primary source of health care coverage. The Committee notes that many Medicare Advantage (MA) networks do not include federally recognized National Cancer Institute (NCI)-designated comprehensive cancer centers (CCC), which are scientific leaders meeting rigorous standards for their transdisciplinary research across cancer prevention, management, and treatment. These specialized cancer centers translate research into advanced clinical care that has been proven to deliver the highest survival rates for cancer patients. Effective treatment relies on the accuracy of initial diagnosis, timeliness of intervention, therapy selection, collaboration among multiple experts, and access to appropriate clinical trials or novel therapies. The Committee requests information in the fiscal year 2027 congressional justification on beneficiary access to NCICCCs in Medicare Advantage plans and in Medicare Parts A and B.

On page 193, at the end of the paragraph titled “*Multidrug Resistance*”, insert the following sentence:

The Committee continues to support the development of platforms designed for broad application, from hospitals to community medical offices, and encourages ASPR to support research and development activities that make use of existing safety and effectiveness data from a reference listed drug, as well as innovative approaches to new classes of antimicrobial technologies.

On page 229, in the third paragraph under the heading “*School Safety National Activities*”, add “, including LEAs in rural and geographically underserved areas” after “high need LEAs”.

On page 230, in the paragraph titled “*Grants to Schools for Federal Law Enforcement Training*”, strike “\$10,000,000” and replace it with “20,000,000”.

On page 230, before the paragraph titled “*Student Mental Health Grants*”, insert the following as a new paragraph:

School Safety Grant Application Feedback.—The Committee acknowledges the challenges that urban and rural school districts encounter when applying for federal funding for school safety-related grants. The Committee encourages the Department to provide applicants with a detailed explanation of any grant denials and explicit feedback on grant applications within 30 days of the announcement of awardees.

On page 239, in the paragraph before the header “*Vocational Rehabilitation State Grants*”, strike “42 U.S.C. §§ 8501–8506” and replace it with “41 U.S.C. 8501–8506”.

On page 261, in the initial paragraph titled “*Transparency about Foreign Influence in American Postsecondary Education*”, strike the last sentence of such initial paragraph and insert the following:

Given the missed opportunity for strong oversight under the prior Administration, the Committee is encouraged by the Department’s renewed focus in this area and requests a briefing within 90 days of enactment of this Act on the Department’s enforcement efforts related to section 117.

Additionally, as part of the Department’s efforts to ensure robust enforcement, the Committee encourages the Department to consider the merits of utilizing a secure, data-driven technology platform that could strengthen the Department’s ability to monitor and analyze section 117 compliance, provide greater transparency to Congress and the public, and ultimately improve the Department’s ability to fulfill its obligations under section 117.