To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BROWN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on ___________________

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the national strategy for combating and eliminating tuberculosis, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Comprehensive TB Elimination Act of 2019”.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR COMBATING AND ELIMINATING TUBERCULOSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 317E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–6) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—
(A) by striking “The Secretary” and inserting the following:

“(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this subsection, the Secretary may give priority to awarding grants to State health departments proposing to focus on the prevention, control, and elimination of tuberculosis in high-risk populations, including foreign-born, homeless, incarcerated, HIV-tuberculosis coinfected, and medically underserved populations.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (C), by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subclauses (I) and (II), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (F) as clauses (i) through (vi), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (8) as subparagraphs (A) through (H), respectively, and adjusting the margins accordingly;
(C) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), as so redesignated, by striking “With respect to” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to;

(D) by striking subparagraph (B), as so redesignated, and inserting the following:

“(B) Research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, and studies in the health sciences that are related to—

“(i) the development of new tools, including vaccines and antimicrobial drugs, to prevent and treat tuberculosis;

“(ii) novel therapeutics for special populations, including pediatric populations, immunosuppressed individuals, and pregnant women;

“(iii) the development or testing of medical diagnostics to detect tuberculosis;

“(iv) research to address the epidemiology, mechanisms, and pathogenesis of tuberculosis;

“(v) public health interventions to address the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, such as directly ob-
served therapy and non-pharmaceutical intervention;

“(vi) methods to enhance detection and response to outbreaks of tuberculosis, including multidrug resistant tuberculosis; and

“(vii) other relevant research areas.”;

(E) in subparagraph (C), as so redesignated—

(i) by redesignating clause (vi), as so redesignated, as clause (vii);

(ii) in clause (v), as so redesignated, by striking “; and” and inserting “;”;

(iii) by inserting after clause (v), as so redesignated, the following:

“(vi) the intensification of efforts to prevent, detect, and treat latent tuberculosis; and”;

(F) in subparagraph (D), as so redesignated, by inserting before the period the following: “, including public awareness campaigns and development of educational, risk, and media communications.”;

(G) in subparagraph (F), as so redesignated, by striking “paragraphs (1) through
(4)” and inserting “subparagraphs (A) through (D)”;
and
(H) by adding at the end the following:
“(2) SELECTION.—In carrying out the activities described in paragraph (1), the Secretary—
“(A) is encouraged to give priority to programmatically relevant research so that new tools can be utilized in public health practice; and
“(B) may seek input from the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority in identifying novel candidates to utilize in the efforts under this subsection to prevent, diagnose, and control tuberculosis.”;
(3) by redesignating subsections (c) through (h) as subsections (d) through (i), respectively;
(4) by inserting after subsection (b) the following—
“(c) GRANTS FOR COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS AND SERVICES FOR PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT.—
“(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, may award grants to State and local governments and Federally qualified health
centers for coordinating the programs and services
of such States, governments, and centers to ensure
timely and appropriate prevention, risk-based screen-
ing, diagnosis, and treatment of latent and active tu-
berculosis.

“(2) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term ‘Federally qualified health center’ has the meaning given to such term in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act.”;

(5) in subsections (d), (e), and (f), as so redesignated, by striking “(a) or (b)” each place it appears and inserting “(a), (b), or (c)”;

(6) in subsection (g)(4), as so redesignated, by adding at the end the following:

“(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Sec-
retary is encouraged to make the reports under subparagraph (A), or other publications rel-
vent to domestic tuberculosis surveillance, pub-
licly available on the Internet website of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to disseminate such information to stake-
holders.”;

(7) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

(A) in paragraph (1)—
(i) by striking “research into new tools under subsection (b)(2)” and inserting “the research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, and studies in health science under subsection (b)(1)(B)”; and

(ii) by inserting “ensuring access to the products developed as a result of such research, investigations, experiments, demonstrations, and studies and” after “advice regarding”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by redesignating subparagraphs (D) and (E) as subparagraphs (E) and (F), respectively; and

(ii) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following:

“(D) members of the Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority;”; and

(8) in subsection (i)(1)(A), as so redesignated, by striking “$200,000,000” and all that follows through the period and inserting “$142,200,000 for fiscal year 2020, $195,700,000 for fiscal year 2021, $225,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, $236,250,000 for
fiscal year 2023, $248,062,500 for fiscal year 2024, and $260,465,625 for fiscal year 2025.”.

(b) NIH TUBERCULOSIS ACTIVITIES.—Section 424C(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285b–7c(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(1) enhancing basic, clinical, and operational research on tuberculosis, including with respect to—

“(A) drug-resistant tuberculosis;

“(B) infection with tuberculosis and latency and progression of tuberculosis; and

“(C) pediatric tuberculosis;”.

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall issue a report on the coordination of efforts in the United States to—

(1) prevent, control, and eliminate tuberculosis; and

(2) implement the activities under section 317E of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–6), as amended by this Act, and the National Action Plan for Combating Multidrug-Resistant Tuberculosis, issued in December 2015.