



S. 1810 – Prenatally and Postnatally Diagnosed Conditions Awareness Act

FLOOR SITUATION

S. 1810 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Sam Brownback (R-KS) on July 18, 2007. The bill was passed by the Senate on September 23, 2008, by unanimous consent.

S. 1810 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 25, 2008.

SUMMARY

Grant Authority: The bill requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to authorize and oversee certain activities, including awarding of grants, contracts or cooperative agreements to eligible entities to collect, synthesize, and disseminate current, evidence-based information relating to Down Syndrome or other prenatally or postnatally diagnosed conditions and coordinate new or existing supportive services for patients receiving a positive diagnosis.

Supportive Services: These supportive services may include the establishment of a resource telephone hotline, the expansion and further development of the National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities, the expansion of national and local peer support programs, the establishment of a national registry of families willing to adopt newborns with Down syndrome or other diagnosed conditions, and to establish education programs for health care providers.

Report: The bill requires the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to submit a report to Congress concerning the effectiveness of current healthcare and family support programs serving as resources for the families of children with disabilities.

BACKGROUND

According to the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Down Syndrome is the most commonly identified cause of mental retardation and occurs in about 1 in 800 births. It is a chromosomal disorder caused by an error in cell division that results in the presence of an additional third chromosome 21, also known as "trisomy 21."

Prenatal screening for Down syndrome is available. Currently, 90 percent of children prenatally diagnosed with Down syndrome are aborted.

Down syndrome is named after John Langdon Down, the first physician to identify the syndrome.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that enacting S. 1810 "would cost \$19 million over the 2009-2013 period, subject to the appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting S. 1810 would not affect direct spending or federal revenues. S. 1810 would impose intergovernmental and private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) by placing new requirements on health care providers. CBO estimates that the aggregate costs of those mandates would be well below the thresholds established in UMRA (in 2008, \$68 million for intergovernmental mandates and \$136 million for private sector mandates, as adjusted annually for inflation)." (CBO Cost Estimate)

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LEGISLATIVE DIGEST

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