

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5897

To establish a health registry to ensure that certain individuals who may have been exposed to formaldehyde in a travel trailer have an opportunity to register for such registry and receive medical treatment for such exposure, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2008

Mr. BARROW (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. TOWNS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a health registry to ensure that certain individuals who may have been exposed to formaldehyde in a travel trailer have an opportunity to register for such registry and receive medical treatment for such exposure, 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 “Travel Trailer Resi-
5 dents’ Health Registry Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGISTRY.**

2 Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment
3 of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, in con-
4 sultation with the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
5 ices, shall—

6 (1) establish and maintain a health registry for
7 eligible individuals who may have been exposed to
8 formaldehyde in a travel trailer;

9 (2) include any information in such registry
10 that the Secretary of Health and Human Services
11 determines necessary to ascertain and monitor the
12 health effects of the exposure to formaldehyde in a
13 travel trailer by eligible individuals;

14 (3) develop a public information campaign to
15 inform eligible individuals about the health registry,
16 including how and where to register and the benefits
17 of registering; and

18 (4) periodically notify eligible individuals of sig-
19 nificant developments in the study and treatment of
20 conditions associated with exposure to formaldehyde.

21 **SEC. 3. TREATMENT AND STUDY OF HEALTH EFFECTS.**

22 (a) **EXAMINATION OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—**

23 (1) **IN GENERAL.—**The Secretary of Homeland
24 Security shall enter into an agreement with the Sec-
25 retary of Health and Human Services to provide ini-
26 tial and ongoing health examinations, consultations,

1 and mental health counseling free of charge to each
2 eligible individual for the purposes of—

3 (A) assisting eligible individuals with any
4 health effects associated with exposure to form-
5 aldehyde in a travel trailer;

6 (B) ascertaining and monitoring the health
7 effects on each eligible individual of exposure to
8 formaldehyde in such a trailer; and

9 (C) completing the epidemiological study
10 required under subsection (b).

11 (2) INFORMATION FEEDBACK.—Such health
12 consultation and mental health counseling described
13 in paragraph (1) shall provide to each eligible indi-
14 vidual information regarding the examination results
15 for such individual, as well as any available informa-
16 tion concerning ongoing developments in the study
17 and treatment of conditions associated with exposure
18 to formaldehyde.

19 (b) EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDY.—Not later than 90
20 days after the establishment of the health registry under
21 section 2, the Secretary of Health and Human Services
22 shall commence an epidemiological study of the immediate
23 and long-term effects of exposure to formaldehyde in a
24 travel trailer sufficient to further understand the imme-
25 diate and long-term medical needs of eligible individuals.

1 **SEC. 4. REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

2 (a) REPORT BY INDEPENDENT SCIENTIFIC ORGANI-
3 ZATION.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services
4 shall enter into an agreement with an independent sci-
5 entific organization to submit a report to Congress, not
6 later than 18 months after the establishment of the reg-
7 istry, containing the following:

8 (1) EFFECTIVENESS OF SECRETARIES.—An as-
9 sessment of the effectiveness of actions taken by the
10 Secretaries of the Department of Homeland Security
11 and the Department of Health and Human Services
12 to collect and maintain information on the health
13 consequences of exposure to formaldehyde in a travel
14 trailer.

15 (2) COLLECTION AND MAINTENANCE.—Rec-
16 ommendations to improve the collection and mainte-
17 nance of such information.

18 (3) MEDICAL NEEDS.—Using the ongoing epi-
19 demiological study under section 3(b), recommenda-
20 tions regarding the most effective and prudent
21 means of addressing the medical needs of eligible in-
22 dividuals, as such needs relate to conditions likely to
23 result from exposure to formaldehyde in a travel
24 trailer.

1 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

2 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
3 as may be necessary to carry out this Act.

4 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

5 (a) **TRAVEL TRAILERS.**—For the purposes of this
6 Act, the term “travel trailer” means any temporary hous-
7 ing unit provided by the Federal Government to individ-
8 uals displaced by a major disaster that occurred between
9 August 29, 2005, and January 1, 2008.

10 (b) **ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.**—For the purposes of
11 this Act, the term “eligible individual” means any indi-
12 vidual who—

13 (1) lawfully resided in a travel trailer; and

14 (2) applied or applies for inclusion on the
15 health registry established pursuant to this Act.

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