



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE

Revised June 20, 2014

H.R. 4631
Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education,
and Support Act of 2014

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on June 10, 2014

SUMMARY

H.R. 4631 would amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize research, surveillance, and education activities related to autism spectrum disorders (autism) conducted by various agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Those activities are conducted by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The bill would authorize appropriations for autism activities at HHS of \$260 million in 2015 and \$1.3 billion over the 2015-2019 period. CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 4631 would cost \$1.1 billion over the 2015-2019 period, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts. Pay-as-you-go procedures do not apply to this legislation because it would not affect direct spending or revenues.

The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA).

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary effect of H.R. 4631 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 550 (health).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					2015- 2019
	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	
CHANGES IN SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
CDC						
Authorization Level	22	22	22	22	22	110
Estimated Outlays	10	20	20	20	20	90
HRSA						
Authorization Level	48	48	48	48	48	240
Estimated Outlays	25	45	45	50	50	215
NIH						
Authorization Level	190	190	190	190	190	950
Estimated Outlays	50	150	180	185	190	755
Total Changes						
Authorization Level	260	260	260	260	260	1,300
Estimated Outlays	85	215	245	255	260	1,060

Note: CDC = Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; HRSA = Health Resources and Services Administration; NIH = National Institutes of Health.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

The CDC, HRSA, and NIH administer programs that support activities to prevent, diagnose, and treat autism. The Congress appropriated \$259 million for such activities in 2014; however, authority to operate those programs expires at the end of fiscal year 2014. H.R. 4631 would reauthorize funding for these activities through 2019 at a level of \$260 million per year. For this estimate, CBO assumes that H.R. 4631 will be enacted near the end of fiscal year 2014 and that the authorized amounts will be appropriated near the beginning of each fiscal year. The estimate of outlays is based on historical spending patterns for CDC, HRSA, and NIH activities.

The CDC currently administers several surveillance and research programs directed at determining the prevalence of autism and the risk factors for developing autism, as well as raising awareness of the signs of autism for families, health care providers, and childcare educators. The Congress appropriated approximately \$22 million for those activities in fiscal year 2014. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$22 million annually over the 2015-2019 period for such programs. CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$90 million over the 2015-2019 period.

HRSA currently operates several programs to train health care providers in the delivery of care to children with autism and other developmental disabilities. The Congress appropriated approximately \$47 million for those activities in fiscal year 2014. The legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$48 million for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 for HRSA to continue such activities. CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$215 million over the 2015-2019 period.

H.R. 4631 also would reauthorize programs and activities carried out by NIH to advance autism research and treatment including the Autism Centers of Excellence program. The Congress appropriated \$190 million for those activities in fiscal year 2014. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$190 million for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 for NIH to continue such activities. CBO estimates that implementing those provisions would cost \$755 million over the 2015-2019 period.

PAY-AS-YOU-GO CONSIDERATIONS: None.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 4631 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA. The bill would benefit state, local, and tribal governments that receive grants related to autism spectrum disorders.

PREVIOUS CBO ESTIMATE

On June 18, 2014, CBO transmitted a cost estimate for H.R. 4631, the Autism Collaboration, Accountability, Research, Education, and Support Act of 2014, as ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on June 10, 2014. That previous estimate incorrectly stated that the legislation authorized the appropriation of \$191 million a year for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019 for NIH to carry out autism-related activities. This revised estimate corrects the amounts authorized to be equal to \$190 million a year for each of fiscal years 2015 through 2019. There is no change to CBO's estimate of outlays under the bill.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Lisa Ramirez-Branum and Santiago Vallinas
Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: J'nell L. Blanco
Impact on the Private Sector: Sam Trachtman

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Holly Harvey
Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis