

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4396

To establish the National Vaccine Authority within the Department of Health and Human Services.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 18, 2005

Mr. CROWLEY (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish the National Vaccine Authority within the Department of Health and Human Services.

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 “National Vaccine Au-
5 thority Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL VACCINE AUTHORITY.**

7 Title XVII of the Public Health Service Act (42
8 U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
9 the following section:

1 “NATIONAL VACCINE AUTHORITY

2 “SEC. 1711. (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established
3 within the Department of Health and Human Services an
4 administrative unit to be known as the National Vaccine
5 Authority. There shall be in such Department the position
6 of Assistant Secretary for Vaccines. The Assistant Sec-
7 retary shall be the head of the National Vaccine Authority,
8 and shall be appointed by and shall report to the Sec-
9 retary. The Secretary shall carry out this section acting
10 through the Assistant Secretary.

11 “(b) FEDERAL AND PRIVATE VACCINE CONTRACTS;
12 QUANTITIES; LOCATIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary for
14 Vaccines (in this section referred to as the ‘Assistant
15 Secretary’) shall ensure that the National Vaccine
16 Authority serves as the central clearinghouse for the
17 Department of Health and Human Services with re-
18 spect to Federal and private contracts for the pur-
19 chase or distribution of vaccines. The Assistant Sec-
20 retary shall monitor the supply and distribution of
21 vaccines under such contracts, including ongoing
22 monitoring of the location of vaccines under the con-
23 tracts.

1 “(2) AUTHORITY FOR FEDERAL CONTRACTS.—
2 The Assistant Secretary shall enter into contracts to
3 increase production of vaccines when necessary.

4 “(3) CONSULTATION.—The Assistant Secretary
5 shall consult with manufacturers of vaccines in order
6 to determine the availability of vaccines.

7 “(c) SUPERVISION OF IDENTIFICATION OF VACCINE
8 STRAINS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary
10 shall oversee the identification of vaccine strains.

11 “(2) CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND
12 PREVENTION.—The Assistant Secretary shall estab-
13 lish, and periodically review and as appropriate re-
14 vise, time tables by which the Director of the Cen-
15 ters for Disease Control and Prevention is required
16 to identify the strains necessary to produce vaccines.

17 “(d) MONITORING OF VACCINE PRODUCTION.—The
18 Assistant Secretary shall identify any delays in the pro-
19 duction of vaccines and shall ensure that such delays are
20 accounted for as the delays occur.

21 “(e) SUPERVISION OF VACCINE DISTRIBUTION.—The
22 Assistant Secretary shall oversee and monitor the distribu-
23 tion of vaccines. In carrying out the preceding sentence,
24 the Assistant Secretary shall identify parties to contracts
25 for the distribution of vaccines and the entities with re-

1 sponsibilities under the contracts for the distribution of
2 the vaccines, including pursuant to third-party contracts.
3 In the event of a delay in the distribution of vaccines, the
4 Assistant Secretary shall identify the reasons for the
5 delay.

6 “(f) EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND CONTINGENCY
7 PLAN.—The Assistant Secretary shall develop, and peri-
8 odically review and as appropriate revise, an emergency
9 response and contingency plan regarding vaccines.

10 “(g) COMMISSION ON JUVENILE VACCINES.—The
11 Assistant Secretary shall establish a commission to deter-
12 mine the current state of juvenile vaccines.

13 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
14 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
15 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
16 each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010.”.

○