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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a bilateral research and innovation program to facilitate and coordinate efforts between the United States and Israel in certain health-related areas, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WEBER of Texas introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a bilateral research and innovation program to facilitate and coordinate efforts between the United States and Israel in certain health-related areas, 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 “United States-Israel
5 Bilateral Innovation for Research and Development in
6 Health Act of 2025” or the “BIRD Health Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The Binational Industrial Research and De-
4 velopment Foundation (in this Act referred to as the
5 “BIRD Foundation”) was established in 1977 as a
6 joint initiative between the United States and Israel
7 and has become a model for successful bilateral re-
8 search and development collaboration.

9 (2) Since its inception, the BIRD Foundation
10 has approved over 1,000 projects with a total invest-
11 ment exceeding \$500 million, generating over \$10
12 billion in sales.

13 (3) In the past decade, approximately 30 per-
14 cent of the projects approved by the BIRD Founda-
15 tion have been related to health, biotechnology, life
16 sciences, medical devices, diagnostics, and telemedi-
17 cine.

18 (4) The United States and Israel have success-
19 fully expanded the activities of the Bird Foundation
20 into dedicated programs targeting specific industrial
21 needs, including energy, cyber, and homeland secu-
22 rity.

23 (5) The United States and Israel signed a
24 health, medical, and scientific cooperation agreement
25 on January 4, 2016, which is designed to foster col-
26 laboration in various health-related areas.

1 (6) In 2020, Congress allocated \$2 million to
2 establish a bilateral collaboration program with the
3 Israel for the development of health-related tech-
4 nologies.

5 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF BIRD HEALTH PROGRAM.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services shall enter into a cooperative agree-
9 ment to establish a bilateral research and innovation
10 program (in this Act referred to as the “BIRD
11 Health Program”) to facilitate and coordinate ef-
12 forts between the United States and Israel to expand
13 and enhance collaboration on—

14 (A) the development of healthcare products
15 and services; and

16 (B) the delivery of such products and serv-
17 ices to individuals in need.

18 (2) COORDINATION.—The Secretary of Health
19 and Human Services shall carry out this subsection
20 in coordination with the Secretary of Commerce and
21 the Executive Director of the BIRD Foundation.

22 (3) APPLICABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS.—The
23 authority provided by this subsection shall be subject
24 to any applicable requirements of law and any appli-

1 cable agreements or understandings between the
2 United States and Israel.

3 (b) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION, GOALS, AND COM-
4 PONENTS.—The cooperation agreement referred to in sub-
5 section (a) shall provide for the following:

6 (1) IMPLEMENTATION PARTNER.—The BIRD
7 Health Program shall be administered by the BIRD
8 Foundation, following the same model used for
9 United States-Israel collaborations in energy, cyber,
10 and homeland security.

11 (2) GOVERNANCE.—The program shall be joint-
12 ly governed by representatives from the Department
13 of Health and Human Services and the Ministry of
14 Health of Israel, who shall actively participate in de-
15 fining focus areas and selecting projects to receive
16 funding,

17 (3) PROGRAM GOALS.—The goals of the BIRD
18 Health Program shall be—

19 (A) to facilitate joint research and develop-
20 ment projects between United States and Israeli
21 institutions, companies, and academic organiza-
22 tions in the field of health technologies;

23 (B) to support the commercialization and
24 deployment of innovative healthcare products
25 and services, including—

- 1 (i) medical devices and diagnostics;
- 2 (ii) pharmaceuticals and biological
- 3 products;
- 4 (iii) genomics and personalized medi-
- 5 cine;
- 6 (iv) telemedicine and digital health
- 7 technologies;
- 8 (v) artificial intelligence for healthcare
- 9 applications;
- 10 (vi) infectious disease prevention;
- 11 (vii) vaccine development; and
- 12 (viii) epidemiological research; and

13 (C) to strengthen health-related ecosystems
14 by fostering United States-Israel partnerships
15 in healthcare technology development.

16 (4) PROGRAM COMPONENTS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—The BIRD Health Pro-
18 gram shall provide funding for the following:

19 (i) RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT.—
20 Programs and activities for research and
21 development, including—

22 (I) joint research projects be-
23 tween United States and Israeli insti-
24 tutions and companies;

1 (II) promoting collaboration in
2 areas such as medical device tech-
3 nology, pharmaceuticals (including bi-
4 ological products, genomics, and inno-
5 vative digital health care solutions)
6 and health care systems management
7 (including a special focus on early-
8 stage clinical trials);

9 (III) with respect to biological
10 products, supporting—

11 (aa) innovation;

12 (bb) process optimization;

13 and

14 (cc) the development of ad-
15 vanced manufacturing techniques
16 that can enhance productivity, re-
17 duce costs, and improve product
18 quality; and

19 (IV) work toward developing a
20 framework for sharing health data for
21 research purposes with the Ministry of
22 Health of Israel.

23 (ii) INNOVATION AND STARTUP ECO-
24 SYSTEM.—Programs and activities for
25 health-related ecosystems, including—

1 (I) fostering collaboration be-
2 tween United States and Israeli start-
3 up companies and other companies in
4 the healthcare sector;

5 (II) facilitating innovative tech-
6 nology acceptance by the marketplace;

7 (III) facilitating mechanisms for
8 technology transfer and joint venture
9 opportunities; and

10 (IV) supporting innovation hubs
11 to accelerate the development and
12 commercialization of United States
13 healthcare technologies in the Israeli
14 market, including encouraging cyber-
15 security standards for sharing data,
16 promoting patient privacy, and en-
17 couraging research.

18 (iii) HEALTH CARE SYSTEM
19 STRENGTHENING.—Programs and activi-
20 ties for health care system strengthening,
21 including facilitating sharing best prac-
22 tices, knowledge, and skills in areas such
23 as clinical care and health care manage-
24 ment.

1 (B) TELEMEDICINE AND DIGITAL HEALTH
2 COOPERATION.—The BIRD Health Program
3 shall provide funding for programs and activi-
4 ties for telemedicine and digital health coopera-
5 tion for establishing initiatives—

6 (i) to enhance telemedicine infrastruc-
7 ture;

8 (ii) to promote interoperability be-
9 tween United States and Israeli health
10 care systems; and

11 (iii) to facilitate collaboration on dig-
12 ital health technologies, data analytics, and
13 cybersecurity.

14 (C) DISEASE PREVENTION INITIATIVES.—
15 The BIRD Health Program shall provide fund-
16 ing for collaborating in disease prevention, in-
17 cluding joint efforts to combat infectious dis-
18 eases, develop vaccines, and share epidemiolog-
19 ical data.

20 (D) BIOLOGICAL PRODUCT MANUFAC-
21 TURING.—The BIRD Health Program shall
22 provide funding for—

23 (i) promoting biological product man-
24 ufacturing;

1 (ii) establishing joint manufacturing
2 facilities for biological products in facilities
3 in the United States that leverage the
4 strengths and expertise of both countries;

5 (iii) pursuing accelerated development
6 of life-saving treatments and new sources
7 of nutrition that are both healthier and
8 more available at an affordable cost; and

9 (iv) supply chain resilience through
10 strategic collaboration to identify and de-
11 velop contingency plans to mitigate biologi-
12 cal product supply disruptions.

13 (5) PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA.—Projects
14 selected for funding under the BIRD Health pro-
15 gram shall be evaluated based on—

16 (A) technical merit and innovation;

17 (B) commercial potential and economic im-
18 pact;

19 (C) relevance to health priorities identified
20 by both governments;

21 (D) strength of the United States-Israel
22 partnership; and

23 (E) potential to address unmet medical
24 needs.

1 **SEC. 4. FUNDING AND IMPLEMENTATION.**

2 (a) FUNDING.—

3 (1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 There is authorized to be appropriated to the Sec-
5 retary of Health and Human Services to carry out
6 this Act \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
7 through 2032.

8 (2) ADMINISTRATION OF FUNDS.—Subject to
9 the terms and conditions of the cooperative agree-
10 ment referred to in section 3(a)(1), funds made
11 available under this section shall be administered
12 through the BIRD Foundation, with oversight from
13 Secretary of Health and Human Services and the
14 Secretary of Commerce.

15 (b) IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.—

16 (1) PROGRAM FRAMEWORK.—Not later than
17 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the
18 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall sub-
19 mit to Congress a report on the progress made in
20 establishing the program framework.

21 (2) PROPOSALS.—Not later than one year after
22 the date of establishment of the program framework,
23 the BIRD Health Program shall begin accepting
24 proposals and allocating funds for eligible projects.

1 **SEC. 5. REPORTING AND EVALUATION.**

2 (a) ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than
3 one year after the date of enactment of this Act, and an-
4 nually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and Human
5 Services shall submit to Congress an annual report detail-
6 ing the establishment and implementation of the BIRD
7 Health Program, including—

8 (1) the progress of funded projects and their
9 impact on healthcare innovation;

10 (2) the economic and scientific benefits result-
11 ing from United States-Israel collaborations; and

12 (3) any policy recommendations to enhance the
13 effectiveness of the BIRD Health Program.

14 (b) PROGRAM REVIEW.—The Secretary of Health
15 and Human Services shall conduct, and submit to Con-
16 gress, a comprehensive review of the success of the BIRD
17 Health Program every three years, with recommendations
18 for renewal or expansion.

19 **SEC. 6. HEALTH TECHNOLOGY DEFINED.**

20 In this Act, the term “health technology” includes a
21 medical device, pharmaceutical, digital health solution, di-
22 agnostic driven by artificial intelligence, and biologic.