

Brief Description: Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act

The Climate Change Health Protection and Promotion Act of 2021, introduced into Congress by Senator Edward Markey [D-MA] and Representative Matt Cartwright [D-PA], implements a series of actions to address the potential impacts of climate change on public health. The goal: “Our changing climate has an impact on the air we breathe, water we drink, food we eat and so much more, and with that comes consequences for our health. ... Climate change is making people and the planet sicker, and we need a national treatment plan to address the worst effects.” The bill’s actions:

- Provides support to health departments to develop preparedness plans and conduct community outreach
- Develops a coordinated preparedness and research agenda on climate and health
- Enhances domestic and international tracking capacity for environmental health indicators and infectious diseases
- Requires health impact assessments to determine how current and proposed laws, policies and programs would protect against the health impacts of climate change
- Prioritizes communities that have been harmed by the disproportionate impacts of the climate crisis due to environmental injustices

The bill is backed by the Children’s Environmental Health Network, Climate for Health, ecoAmerica, the National Resources Defense Council, and other concerned organizations.

To send a message of support to your Senators and Representative, visit the American Public Health Association’s Action Alert on Climate Change web page at <https://apha.org/Policies-and-Advocacy/Advocacy-for-Public-Health/Action-Alerts/Climate-Change>, and in a few clicks send a ZIP-code guided message emphasizing health as a priority in climate change.