



Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education (SHINE) for Autumn Act ([H.R. 5012](#)/[S. 2647](#))

The bipartisan SHINE for Autumn Act is the beginning of a longer-term solution towards the prevention of stillbirth in the United States. The SHINE aims to prevent stillbirth through enhanced data collection, research, education, and awareness by creating the first comprehensive, federal-state partnership to reduce stillbirth rates in the United States. In the 117th Congress, the SHINE for Autumn Act, H.R. 5487, passed the House, under suspension, with overwhelming majority support (408-18) on December 8, 2021.

SHINE’s Lead Sponsors in the 118th Congress:



Rep.
Young Kim
(R-CA-40)



Rep.
Kathy Castor
(D-FL-14)



Rep.
David P. Joyce
(R-OH-14)



Rep.
Robin L. Kelly
(D-IL-02)



Sen.
Cory A. Booker
(D-NJ)



Sen.
Marco Rubio
(R-FL)

On July 27, 2023, the bipartisan and bicameral Stillbirth Health Improvement and Education (SHINE) for Autumn Act was introduced into Congress by Congresswoman Young Kim (CA-40), Congresswoman Kathy Castor (FL-14), Congressman Dave Joyce (OH-14), Congresswoman Robin Kelly (IL-02), Senator Cory Booker (D-NJ), and Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL).

KEY COMPONENTS OF THE SHINE FOR AUTUMN ACT

Stillbirth has never been afforded the same attention as other areas maternal & child health — this work is much needed and long overdue. With minimal investment, we can do something about stillbirth right now.



DATA COLLECTION & REPORTING

The problem: Current U.S. stillbirth data suffers from poor quality; not all stillbirths are recorded, not all requested information is provided, and not all provided information is correct. This hinders public health efforts to prevent stillbirths and undermines stillbirth research.

Solution: SHINE would authorize \$5 million per year to provide grants to states to support stillbirth data collection and reporting, including contributing risk factors. Better data will ultimately help to understand the underlying causes of stillbirth and identify strategies for prevention.



FETAL AUTOPSY TRAINING

The problem: The current shortage of trained perinatal pathologists in the United States makes it difficult to identify the cause(s) of many stillbirths.

Solution: SHINE would authorize \$3 million per year to incorporate a research or pathology fellowship on stillbirth that will include research and training on fetal autopsies. Increasing the number of pathologists who are appropriately trained to conduct fetal autopsies will lead to improved data about stillbirth causes.



AWARENESS & EDUCATION

The problem: The first time someone hears about stillbirth should not be when it has happened to them. Families and health-care providers need ways to have safe conversations about current evidence-based recommendations on monitoring pregnancies to prevent stillbirths.

Solution: SHINE would authorize \$1 million per year for HHS, in coordination with health care providers, to develop guidelines and educational materials for state departments of health and statistics on stillbirth data collection, data sharing, and educational materials on stillbirth prevention and the risks of stillbirth.