

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**S.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require a study and report on matters concerning best practices in mortality counts as a result of a major disaster.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. HARRIS (for herself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. NELSON, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. CARPER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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**A BILL**

To require a study and report on matters concerning best practices in mortality counts as a result of a major disaster.

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 “Counting Our Unex-  
5 pected Natural Tragedies’ Victims Act of 2018” or the  
6 “COUNT Victims Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. STUDY AND REPORT.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30,  
9 2018, the Administrator of Federal Emergency Manage-

1 ment Agency shall enter into a contract with the National  
2 Academy of Medicine to conduct a study and prepare a  
3 report as described in subsection (b).

4 (b) STUDY AND REPORT.—

5 (1) STUDY.—

6 (A) IN GENERAL.—The study described in  
7 this subsection shall be a study of matters con-  
8 cerning best practices in mortality counts as a  
9 result of a major disaster (as defined in section  
10 102 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief  
11 and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C.  
12 5122)).

13 (B) CONTENTS.—The study described in  
14 this subsection shall address approaches to  
15 quantifying mortality and significant morbidity  
16 among populations affected by major disasters,  
17 which shall include best practices and policy  
18 recommendations for—

19 (i) equitable and timely attribution, in  
20 order to facilitate access to available bene-  
21 fits, among other things;

22 (ii) timely prospective tracking of pop-  
23 ulation levels of mortality and significant  
24 morbidity, and their causes, in order to  
25 continuously inform response efforts; and

1 (iii) retrospective study of disaster-re-  
2 lated mortality and significant morbidity to  
3 inform after-action analysis and improve  
4 subsequent preparedness efforts.

5 (2) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the  
6 date on which the contract described in subsection  
7 (a) is entered into, the National Academy of Medi-  
8 cine shall complete and transmit to the Adminis-  
9 trator of Federal Emergency Management Agency a  
10 report on the study described in paragraph (1).

11 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
12 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
13 \$2,000,000 for fiscal years 2018 through 2020.