

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2349

To provide for research and education with respect to uterine fibroids, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2007

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. GRIJALVA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for research and education with respect to uterine fibroids, 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 “Uterine Fibroid Re-
5 search and Education Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The development of uterine fibroids is a
9 common and significant health problem, affecting

1 women, primarily of reproductive age, across all
2 ages, racial backgrounds, and socioeconomic levels.

3 (2) It is estimated that between 20 and 30 per-
4 cent of women of reproductive age have clinically
5 recognized uterine fibroids, and screening studies in-
6 dicate the prevalence of uterine fibroids in women
7 may be much higher.

8 (3) Minority women are more likely to develop
9 uterine fibroids, and through ultrasound screening of
10 African-American and Caucasian women for fibroids,
11 it is estimated that more than 80 percent of African
12 Americans and about 70 percent of Caucasians de-
13 velop fibroids by the time they reach menopause and
14 the tumors develop at younger ages in African
15 Americans.

16 (4) Symptomatic uterine fibroids can cause
17 heavy bleeding, pain, and reproductive problems, in-
18 cluding infertility. There is no known cause of uter-
19 ine fibroids.

20 (5) The presence of uterine fibroids is the most
21 common reason for hysterectomies, accounting for
22 approximately one-third of hysterectomies, or
23 200,000 procedures annually and 22 percent of Afri-
24 can American women and 7 percent of Caucasians
25 have hysterectomies for fibroids.

1 (6) Over five billion dollars are spent annually
2 on hysterectomies, at approximately \$6,000 for each
3 surgery.

4 (7) The Evidence Report and Summary on the
5 Management of Uterine Fibroids, as compiled by the
6 Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality of the
7 Department of Health and Human Services, held
8 that there is a “remarkable lack of high quality evi-
9 dence supporting the effectiveness of most interven-
10 tions for symptomatic fibroids”.

11 (8) Current research and available data do not
12 provide adequate information on the rates of preva-
13 lence and incidence of fibroids in Asian, Hispanic,
14 and other minority women, the costs associated with
15 treating fibroids, and the methods by which fibroids
16 may be prevented in these women.

17 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH WITH RESPECT TO UTERINE FIBROIDS.**

18 (a) RESEARCH.—The Director of the National Insti-
19 tutes of Health (in this section referred to as the “Direc-
20 tor of NIH”) shall expand, intensify, and coordinate pro-
21 grams for the conduct and support of research with re-
22 spect to uterine fibroids.

23 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Director of NIH shall
24 carry out this section through the appropriate institutes,
25 offices, and centers of the National Institutes of Health,

1 including the National Institute of Child Health and
2 Human Development, the National Institute of Environ-
3 mental Health Sciences, the Office of Research on Wom-
4 en's Health, and the National Center on Minority Health
5 and Health Disparities.

6 (c) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Office of
7 Research on Women's Health shall coordinate activities
8 under subsection (b) among the institutes, offices, and
9 centers of the National Institutes of Health.

10 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
11 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
12 to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
13 2008 through 2012.

14 **SEC. 4. EDUCATION AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION**
15 **WITH RESPECT TO UTERINE FIBROIDS.**

16 (a) UTERINE FIBROIDS PUBLIC EDUCATION PRO-
17 GRAM.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services,
18 acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease
19 Control and Prevention, shall develop and disseminate to
20 the public information regarding uterine fibroids, includ-
21 ing information on—

22 (1) the incidence and prevalence of uterine
23 fibroids among women;

24 (2) the elevated risk for minority women to de-
25 velop uterine fibroids; and

1 (3) the availability, as medically appropriate, of
2 a range of treatment options for symptomatic uter-
3 ine fibroids.

4 (b) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
5 retary may disseminate information under subsection (a)
6 directly or through arrangements with nonprofit organiza-
7 tions, consumer groups, institutions of higher education,
8 Federal, State, or local agencies, or the media.

9 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
10 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
11 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
12 each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

13 **SEC. 5. INFORMATION TO HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS WITH**
14 **RESPECT TO UTERINE FIBROIDS.**

15 (a) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Sec-
16 retary of Health and Human Services, acting through the
17 Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Ad-
18 ministration, shall develop and disseminate to health care
19 providers information on uterine fibroids for the purpose
20 of ensuring that health care providers remain informed
21 about current information on uterine fibroids. Such infor-
22 mation shall include the elevated risk for minority women
23 to develop uterine fibroids and the range of available op-
24 tions for the treatment of symptomatic uterine fibroids.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
2 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
3 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
4 each of the fiscal years 2008 through 2012.

5 **SEC. 6. DEFINITION.**

6 In this Act, the term “minority women” means
7 women who are members of a racial and ethnic minority
8 group, as defined in section 1707(g) of the Public Health
9 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6(g)).

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