

103D CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3119

To establish a coordinated strategy of health promotion and disease prevention activities through the Public Health Service.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 1993

Mrs. LLOYD introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a coordinated strategy of health promotion and disease prevention activities through the Public Health Service.

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 “Women’s Health Infor-
5 mation Act of 1993”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) A report by the General Accounting Office
9 indicates that the Department and Health and
10 Human Services, which is responsible for providing

1 health information to the public, lacks an overall
2 strategy for providing such information to women.

3 (2) Such Department has no overall strategy to
4 ensure that the most needed and useful health infor-
5 mation is distributed to the public.

6 (3) Health information activities of the Depart-
7 ment are left to the discretion of the agencies of the
8 Public Health Service, each of which largely plans
9 the production and dissemination of information
10 independently of the other agencies of the Service.

11 (4) Even when health information for the public
12 is produced and disseminated by the Department, it
13 is not always easily accessible to the public.

14 (5) With respect to health information, the
15 agencies of such Department cannot determine
16 whether the efforts of the agencies are appropriately
17 targeted to raise women's awareness and increase
18 their knowledge about conditions that confront them.

19 **SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE ON HEALTH COMMU-**
20 **NICATIONS.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
22 Human Services shall establish an Interagency Committee
23 on Health Communications (in this section referred to as
24 the “Committee”).

25 (b) DUTIES.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall provide
2 advice to the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
3 ices on developing, overseeing, and coordinating Fed-
4 eral promotion and education activities, including
5 such activities within the Public Health Service.

6 (2) WOMEN’S HEALTH.—In carrying out para-
7 graph (1), the Committee shall give priority to car-
8 rying activities regarding women’s health.

9 (c) CHAIR.—The Committee shall be chaired by the
10 Assistant Secretary for Health.

11 (d) COMPOSITION.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
13 the Committee shall be composed of one representa-
14 tive from each agency with authority to speak for
15 the agency, in order to address activities and goal-
16 setting with regard to communications specific to
17 women’s health. Decisions shall be implemented ei-
18 ther individually or collectively as required.

19 (2) WOMEN’S HEALTH.—The Director of the
20 Office of Women’s Health at the Public Health
21 Service shall serve as a member of the Committee to
22 ensure that the efforts of the Committee and the
23 Public Health Service reflect pertinent recommenda-
24 tions and objectives to improve women’s health.

25 (e) MEETINGS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Committee shall, as ap-
2 appropriate, meet not fewer than 4 times a year in
3 order to promote collaboration, enhance cooperation,
4 and develop effective strategies in this effort.

5 (2) ANNUAL FORUM.—The Assistant Secretary
6 for Health shall convene a forum once a year to hear
7 testimony by interested public and private individ-
8 uals and organizations regarding priorities for areas
9 of women’s health, and shall respond to the testi-
10 mony and make recommendations regarding the tes-
11 timony.

12 (f) REPORT.—The Assistant Secretary of Health
13 shall issue a yearly report on the progress of the Commit-
14 tee’s efforts to establish a coordinated strategy of health
15 promotion and disease prevention activities at the Public
16 Health Service.

17 **SEC. 4. DISSEMINATION EFFORTS OF WOMEN’S HEALTH IN-**
18 **FORMATION WITHIN PUBLIC HEALTH SERV-**
19 **ICE.**

20 (a) CLEARINGHOUSE ON WOMEN’S HEALTH.—The
21 Assistant Secretary for Health shall establish the Clear-
22 inghouse on Women’s Health to compile, archive, and dis-
23 seminate information concerning women’s health and to
24 publish a yearly summary of such materials to be made
25 available upon request.

1 (b) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
3 Human Services may make a grant, or enter into a
4 contract with one or more organizations representing
5 women—

6 (A) to make available information concern-
7 ing Federal programs, services, informational
8 resources, and benefits related to women's
9 health;

10 (B) establish a toll-free hotline; and

11 (C) assess demand for publications and
12 costs on an annual basis, and develop publica-
13 tions as needed.

14 (2) FEES REGARDING TOLL-FREE HOTLINE.—

15 The Clearinghouse may, as necessary, charge an ap-
16 propriate fee for information provided by the toll-
17 free hotline. Exceptions shall be made for individuals
18 or organizations that are financially unable to pay
19 such fees.

20 (c) ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN.—The Secretary of
21 Health and Human Services shall conduct an outreach
22 and advertising campaign to women and health profes-
23 sionals regarding the existence of the clearinghouse and
24 the toll-free number.

1 (d) 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 1994 through 1999.

5 **SEC. 5. STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF HEALTH COMMU-**
6 **NICATIONS.**

7 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
8 convene a study of the Agency for Health Care Policy and
9 Research to evaluate the overall effectiveness of health
10 communications, including the efficacy of existing policies
11 and techniques utilized by the Public Health Service to
12 develop and disseminate such information. The study shall
13 involve evaluation of effort, mode, use of toll-free numbers,
14 and assessment of organization and competency. The
15 study shall also include an analysis of efforts regarding
16 reaching underserved populations. The Agency for Health
17 Care Policy and Research shall make recommendations to
18 the Assistant Secretary for Health on the most effective
19 strategy for reaching the public and presenting health
20 communications.

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