

103<sup>D</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4148

To establish the National Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth Suicide Prevention.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 1994

Mr. MEEHAN introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To establish the National Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth Suicide Prevention.

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 “Gay and Lesbian  
5 Youth Suicide Prevention Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the  
8 “National Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth Suicide  
9 Prevention” (in this Act referred to as the “Commis-  
10 sion”).

1 **SEC. 3. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall combat the  
3 epidemic of suicide among gay and lesbian youth, who ac-  
4 count for 30 percent of completed youth suicides as re-  
5 ported by the United States Department of Health and  
6 Human Services in the 1989 “Report of the Secretary’s  
7 Task Force on Youth Suicide”. The Commission shall ad-  
8 vise the Department of Health and Human Services and  
9 other Federal and State youth service agencies concerning  
10 how to include the concerns of gay and lesbian youth with-  
11 in existing suicide prevention policies, programs, and  
12 research.

13 (b) GOALS OF COMMISSION.—The goals of the Com-  
14 mission shall be to—

15 (1) work to include the concerns of gay and les-  
16 bian youth within existing suicide prevention pro-  
17 grams at the national and State level;

18 (2) develop and make specific recommendations  
19 to the Department of Health and Human Services  
20 and other relevant Federal and State agencies about  
21 how to stem the epidemic of gay and lesbian youth  
22 suicide;

23 (3) work to expand current research on youth  
24 suicide to include gay and lesbian youth; and

1           (4) work to amend existing youth suicide poli-  
2           cies, guidelines, and programs to include gay and  
3           lesbian youth.

4 **SEC. 4. MEMBERSHIP.**

5           (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
6 shall be composed of 30 members appointed by the Sec-  
7 retary of Health and Human Services. Members shall in-  
8 clude, but not be limited to, professionals and experts in  
9 the field of youth suicide prevention.

10          (b) TERMS.—Each member of the Commission shall  
11 be appointed for the life of the Commission.

12          (c) BASIC PAY AND EXPENSES.—[TO BE SUP-  
13 PLIED]

14          (d) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet quar-  
15 terly with the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
16 and advise various departments within the Department of  
17 Health and Human Services on an ongoing basis.

18 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

19          (a) INTERIM REPORTS.—The Commission shall sub-  
20 mit an annual report to the Secretary of Health and  
21 Human Services. The Commission shall conduct regional  
22 public hearings around the United States to gather infor-  
23 mation from youths, family members, and professionals  
24 about the problem of gay youth suicide on an ongoing  
25 basis.

1 (b) FINAL REPORT.—[TO BE SUPPLIED]

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