

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 5083

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the development and operation of regional centers to conduct research and provide education and training regarding women's health.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 22, 1994

Ms. MARGOLIES-MEZVINSKY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the development and operation of regional centers to conduct research and provide education and training regarding women's health.

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
5 Regional Centers Act".

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Until recently, women have been excluded
2 from most clinical trials for treatments for cancer,
3 heart disease, and stroke, despite the fact that
4 women react differently from men to many treat-
5 ments for these and other diseases.

6 (2) Historically, little research money has been
7 devoted to diseases that primarily afflict women,
8 such as osteoporosis, breast cancer, and multiple
9 sclerosis.

10 (3) The American medical education system has
11 not trained physicians and other health care profes-
12 sionals for women's health needs. A major barrier to
13 change is the absence of an appropriate curriculum
14 on women's health. Another barrier to change has
15 been the significant underrepresentation of women
16 in senior ranks of academic medicine. As long as
17 this void in women leaders is allowed to continue,
18 women's health issues will not gain the appropriate
19 attention within the medical community.

20 (4) The establishment of the Office of Research
21 on Women's Health at the National Institutes of
22 Health is vital to addressing the necessary research
23 for diseases and health conditions that affect
24 women. However, there is currently no means by

1 which to translate this new research into improved
2 physician education and patient care.

3 (5) The Federal Government should develop re-
4 gional education and treatment centers on women's
5 health to disseminate the information made available
6 by the National Institutes of Health and other Fed-
7 eral research efforts in women's health.

8 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM FOR MULTIPUR-**
9 **POSE REGIONAL CENTERS ON WOMEN'S**
10 **HEALTH.**

11 Part F of title IV of the Public Health Service Act
12 (42 U.S.C. 287d et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
13 the following section:

14 **“SEC. 486C. MULTIPURPOSE REGIONAL CENTERS ON WOM-**
15 **EN'S HEALTH.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH, in con-
17 sultation with the Director of the Office, shall make grants
18 to, or enter into contracts with, public or nonprofit private
19 entities for the development and operation of centers to
20 carry out the activities described in subsection (c) regard-
21 ing women's health conditions.

22 “(b) NUMBER OF CENTERS; REGIONAL CONSIDER-
23 ATIONS.—The Director of NIH shall, subject to the extent
24 of amounts made available in appropriations Acts, provide
25 for the development of 5 centers under subsection (a) and

1 shall ensure, to the extent practicable, that such a center
2 is developed in each of the principal geographic regions
3 of the United States.

4 “(c) ACTIVITIES OF CENTERS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to women’s
6 health conditions, each center developed under sub-
7 section (a) shall—

8 “(A) conduct basic research, and clinical
9 and other applied research;

10 “(B) develop curricula for training health
11 professionals and scientists;

12 “(C) conduct training programs for health
13 professionals and scientists;

14 “(D) develop model continuing education
15 programs for health professionals and sci-
16 entists;

17 “(E) disseminate information to health
18 professionals, scientists, and the public;

19 “(F) develop model programs for the deliv-
20 ery of health services to women, including, as
21 appropriate, programs specific to particular age
22 groups; and

23 “(G) in the case of women who are in the
24 medical profession (including women attending
25 schools of medicine), develop model programs

1 for training the women in the skills necessary
2 for achieving positions of leadership in such
3 schools and in academic health centers.

4 “(2) STIPENDS REGARDING TRAINING; FEES
5 REGARDING CLINICAL RESEARCH SUBJECTS.—A cen-
6 ter may use funds provided under subsection (a) to
7 provide stipends for health professionals and sci-
8 entists enrolled in programs described in subpara-
9 graph (C) of paragraph (1), and to provide fees to
10 individuals serving as subjects in clinical trials con-
11 ducted under such paragraph.

12 “(d) COORDINATION OF INFORMATION.—The Direc-
13 tor of NIH shall, as appropriate, provide for the coordina-
14 tion of information among the centers assisted under sub-
15 section (a) and among the national research institutes.

16 “(e) STRUCTURE OF CENTERS.—Each center as-
17 sisted under subsection (a) shall use the facilities of a sin-
18 gle institution, or be formed from a consortium of cooper-
19 ating institutions, meeting such requirements as may be
20 prescribed by the Director of NIH.

21 “(f) DURATION OF SUPPORT.—Support of a center
22 under subsection (a) may be for a period not exceeding
23 5 years. Such period may be extended for one or more
24 additional periods not exceeding 5 years if the operations
25 of such center have been reviewed by an appropriate tech-

1 nical and scientific peer review group established by the
2 Director of NIH and if such group has recommended to
3 the Director that such period should be extended.

4 “(g) LIMITATION ON SUPPORT PER CENTER.—The
5 Director of NIH may not, from amounts appropriated
6 under subsection (h), obligate more than \$15,000,000 in
7 the aggregate for the development and operation of a cen-
8 ter under subsection (a).

9 “(h) AGGREGATE AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIA-
10 TIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section,
11 there is authorized to be appropriated \$60,000,000 in the
12 aggregate for fiscal year 1995 and subsequent fiscal
13 years.”.

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