

103^D CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

S. 2555

To establish Cooperative Units of Research in Infectious Diseases (CURID) to evaluate the potential etiology of chronic inflammatory diseases with emphasis upon arthritis and chronic lung disease.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 12), 1994

Mr. DECONCINI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

A BILL

To establish Cooperative Units of Research in Infectious Diseases (CURID) to evaluate the potential etiology of chronic inflammatory diseases with emphasis upon arthritis and chronic lung disease.

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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This act may be cited as the Co-
5 operative Units of Research in Infectious Disease
6 (CURID) of 1994.

7 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

1 (1) despite the development of modern tech-
2 nology for water purification, food preparation, steri-
3 lization and disinfection coupled with the discovery
4 of antibiotics and a limited number of highly effec-
5 tive vaccines, the advent of AIDS, the re-emergence
6 of tuberculosis, the emergence of newly infectious
7 agents and a significant increase in food and water
8 borne diseases in recent years pose new threats to
9 the health and well-being of all citizens;

10 (2) the era of molecular biology and intensive
11 research efforts in AIDS have produced powerful
12 technology for the rapid and sensitive detection of
13 new infectious agents which have resulted in the de-
14 velopment of new concepts of infectious diseases;

15 (3) advances in the scientific understanding of
16 the functions of the human body's defense mecha-
17 nisms and the critical roles of both the patient and
18 the infecting agent's genetic characteristics are rap-
19 idly leading to the belief that a number of chronic
20 diseases of humans presently of unknown etiology
21 may be caused by infectious agents;

22 (4) chronic illnesses like lung, arthritis and re-
23 lated diseases are increasing at alarming rates and,
24 according to 1994 National Centers for Disease
25 Control and Prevention data, the incidence of arthri-

1 tis alone is estimated to increase by 57 percent and
2 affect 54.9 million people in the United States by
3 the year 2020;

4 (5) the economic losses associated with these
5 disabling diseases will continue to cost our society
6 billions of dollars annually if the Federal Govern-
7 ment does not invest in essential research initiatives
8 designed to build upon our ability to detect new in-
9 fectionous agents and fully investigate new concepts of
10 the etiology of chronic diseases;

11 (6) determining and demonstrating causality of
12 diseases like chronic lung disease, rheumatoid arthri-
13 tis and rheumatic diseases by an infectious agent
14 could lead to early and accurate diagnosis and treat-
15 ment of the disease which would dramatically reduce
16 medical costs and morbidity and mortality; and

17 (7) addressing the potential role of infectious
18 agents in chronic diseases necessitates a different re-
19 search approach than currently exists and sustained
20 funding of collaborative research groups.

21 **SEC. 2. SPECIFIC PROVISIONS; ESTABLISHMENT OF COOP-**
22 **ERATIVE UNITS OF RESEARCH IN INFEC-**
23 **TIOUS DISEASES.**

24 (a) IN GENERAL.—Infectious Disease Research and
25 Clinical Units of Excellence will be established jointly by

1 the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases
2 of the National Institutes of Health and the National Cen-
3 ter for Infectious Diseases of the National Centers for
4 Disease Control and Prevention.

5 (b) PURPOSE.—These cooperative units will be dedi-
6 cated to finding the cause, prevention and cure of chronic
7 inflammatory diseases of suspected infectious etiology and
8 committed to giving priority to diseases like arthritis and
9 chronic lung disease which hold the most promise for bene-
10 ficial research results.

11 (c) ESTABLISHMENT OF UNITS.—The establishment
12 of the Infectious Disease Research and Clinical Units of
13 Excellence shall be based upon past research performance
14 of researchers working on specific microorganisms.

15 (1) The units will be responsible for—

16 (A) evaluation of patient specimens for the
17 presence of infectious agents;

18 (B) characterization of the immune re-
19 sponse to these infectious agents; and

20 (C) characterization of the genetic back-
21 ground of patients.

22 (2) Personnel to staff these units will be se-
23 lected based upon the proven track record of individ-
24 uals who—

1 (A) have demonstrated the capability of
2 using molecular diagnostic techniques for detec-
3 tion of fastidious infectious agents; and

4 (B) possess proven clinical experience.

5 (3) The units will provide laboratory support
6 for a network of Clinical Units for patient enroll-
7 ment and patient management.

8 (4) National Center for Infectious Diseases of
9 the National Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
10 vention will provide the epidemiological and inves-
11 tigative skills for a network of Clinical Units.

12 (5) The initial period of grant funding for the
13 units will be up to ten but no less than five years.

14 (d) COORDINATION OF RESEARCH PROGRAM AND
15 DEVELOPMENT OF STRATEGIC RESEARCH PLAN.—The
16 National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall
17 be the lead agency.

18 (1) The Director of the National Institute of
19 Allergy and Infectious Diseases shall be responsible
20 for the establishment of no more than 10 research
21 and clinical units at any given time.

22 (2) The designation of research and clinical
23 units shall be carried out in consultation with the
24 Director of the National Center for Infectious Dis-
25 eases as well as expert extramural scientists.

1 (3) The directors of the research and clinical
2 units will be responsible for the development of the
3 research plan.

4 **SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

5 There are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000
6 for each of the fiscal years 1996 through 2006. At the
7 end of this 10 year period, the effectiveness of this re-
8 search approach will be evaluated and the need for future
9 funding, if any, will be determined by the National Advi-
10 sory Councils of the National Institute of Allergy and In-
11 fectious Diseases and the National Center for Infectious
12 Diseases. The National Advisory Councils shall submit a
13 report of its findings and recommendations to the appro-
14 priate authorizing committees of the House and the Sen-
15 ate.

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