

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 884

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the training of health professions students with respect to the identification and referral of victims of domestic violence.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 1997

Mrs. MORELLA (for herself, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. GANSKE) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the training of health professions students with respect to the identification and referral of victims of domestic violence.

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 “Domestic Violence
5 Identification and Referral Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT, FOR CERTAIN HEALTH PROFES-**
2 **SIONS PROGRAMS, OF PROVISIONS REGARD-**
3 **ING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

4 (a) TITLE VII PROGRAMS; PREFERENCES IN FINAN-
5 CIAL AWARDS.—Section 791 of the Public Health Service
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 295j) is amended by redesignating sub-
7 section (e) as subsection (d), and by inserting after sub-
8 section (b) the following subsection:

9 “(c) PREFERENCES REGARDING TRAINING IN IDEN-
10 TIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC
11 VIOLENCE.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a health pro-
13 fessions entity specified in paragraph (2), the Sec-
14 retary shall, in making awards of grants or contracts
15 under this title, give preference to any such entity
16 (if otherwise a qualified applicant for the award in-
17 volved) that has in effect the requirement that, as a
18 condition of receiving a degree or certificate (as ap-
19 plicable) from the entity, each student have had sig-
20 nificant training in carrying out the following func-
21 tions as a provider of health care:

22 “(A) Identifying victims of domestic vio-
23 lence, and maintaining complete medical
24 records that include documentation of the ex-
25 amination, treatment given, and referrals made,

1 and recording the location and nature of the
2 victim’s injuries.

3 “(B) Examining and treating such victims,
4 within the scope of the health professional’s dis-
5 cipline, training, and practice, including, at a
6 minimum, providing medical advice regarding
7 the dynamics and nature of domestic violence.

8 “(C) Referring the victims to public and
9 nonprofit private entities that provide services
10 for such victims.

11 “(2) RELEVANT HEALTH PROFESSIONS ENTI-
12 TIES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a health pro-
13 fessions entity specified in this paragraph is any en-
14 tity that is a school of medicine, a school of osteo-
15 pathic medicine, a graduate program in mental
16 health practice, a school of nursing (as defined in
17 section 853), a program for the training of physician
18 assistants, or a program for the training of allied
19 health professionals.

20 “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2
21 years after the date of the enactment of the Domes-
22 tic Violence Identification and Referral Act of 1997,
23 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
24 Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the
25 Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the

1 Senate, a report specifying the health professions en-
2 tities that are receiving preference under paragraph
3 (1); the number of hours of training required by the
4 entities for purposes of such paragraph; the extent
5 of clinical experience so required; and the types of
6 courses through which the training is being pro-
7 vided.

8 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
9 section, the term ‘domestic violence’ includes behav-
10 ior commonly referred to as domestic violence, sexual
11 assault, spousal abuse, woman battering, partner
12 abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and acquaintance
13 rape.”.

14 (b) TITLE VIII PROGRAMS; PREFERENCES IN FI-
15 NANCIAL AWARDS.—Section 860 of the Public Health
16 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 298b–7) is amended by adding at
17 the end the following subsection:

18 “(f) PREFERENCES REGARDING TRAINING IN IDEN-
19 TIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC
20 VIOLENCE.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a health pro-
22 fessions entity specified in paragraph (2), the Sec-
23 retary shall, in making awards of grants or contracts
24 under this title, give preference to any such entity

1 (if otherwise a qualified applicant for the award in-
2 volved) that has in effect the requirement that, as a
3 condition of receiving a degree or certificate (as ap-
4 plicable) from the entity, each student have had sig-
5 nificant training in carrying out the following func-
6 tions as a provider of health care:

7 “(A) Identifying victims of domestic vio-
8 lence, and maintaining complete medical
9 records that include documentation of the ex-
10 amination, treatment given, and referrals made,
11 and recording the location and nature of the
12 victim’s injuries.

13 “(B) Examining and treating such victims,
14 within the scope of the health professional’s dis-
15 cipline, training, and practice, including, at a
16 minimum, providing medical advice regarding
17 the dynamics and nature of domestic violence.

18 “(C) Referring the victims to public and
19 nonprofit private entities that provide services
20 for such victims.

21 “(2) RELEVANT HEALTH PROFESSIONS ENTI-
22 TIES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a health pro-
23 fessions entity specified in this paragraph is any en-
24 tity that is a school of nursing or other public or

1 nonprofit private entity that is eligible to receive an
2 award described in such paragraph.

3 “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2
4 years after the date of the enactment of the Domes-
5 tic Violence Identification and Referral Act of 1997,
6 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
7 Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the
8 Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the
9 Senate, a report specifying the health professions en-
10 tities that are receiving preference under paragraph
11 (1); the number of hours of training required by the
12 entities for purposes of such paragraph; the extent
13 of clinical experience so required; and the types of
14 courses through which the training is being pro-
15 vided.

16 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-
17 section, the term ‘domestic violence’ includes behav-
18 ior commonly referred to as domestic violence, sexual
19 assault, spousal abuse, woman battering, partner
20 abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and acquaintance
21 rape.”.

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