

106TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2925

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Men's Health.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 26, 2000

Mr. THURMOND introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Men'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 "Men's Health Act of  
5       2000".

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

8               (1) There is a silent health crisis affecting the  
9       health and well-being of America's men.

1           (2) This health crisis is of particular concern to  
2 men, but is also a concern for women, and especially  
3 to those who have fathers, husbands, sons, and  
4 brothers.

5           (3) Men's health is likewise a concern for em-  
6 ployers who lose productive employees as well as pay  
7 the costs of medical care, and is a concern to State  
8 government and society which absorb the enormous  
9 costs of premature death and disability, including  
10 the costs of caring for dependents left behind.

11           (4) The life expectancy gap between men and  
12 women has steadily increased from 1 year in 1920  
13 to 7 years in 1990.

14           (5) Almost twice as many men than women die  
15 from heart disease, and 28.5 percent of all men die  
16 as a result of stroke.

17           (6) In 1995, blood pressure of black males was  
18 356 percent higher than that of white males, and  
19 the death rate for stroke was 97 percent higher for  
20 black males than for white males.

21           (7) The incidence of stroke among men is 19  
22 percent higher than for women.

23           (8) Significantly more men than women are di-  
24 agnosed with AIDS each year.

1           (9) Fifty percent more men than women die of  
2 cancer.

3           (10) Although the incidence of depression is  
4 higher in women, the rate of life-threatening depres-  
5 sion is higher in men, with men representing 80 per-  
6 cent of all suicide cases, and with men 43 times  
7 more likely to be admitted to psychiatric hospitals  
8 than women.

9           (11) Prostate cancer is the most frequently di-  
10 agnosed cancer in the United States among men, ac-  
11 counting for 36 percent of all cancer cases.

12           (12) An estimated 180,000 men will be newly  
13 diagnosed with prostate cancer this year alone, of  
14 which 37,000 will die.

15           (13) Prostate cancer rates increase sharply with  
16 age, and more than 75 percent of such cases are di-  
17 agnosed in men age 65 and older.

18           (14) The incidence of prostate cancer and the  
19 resulting mortality rate in African American men is  
20 twice that in white men.

21           (15) Studies show that men are at least 25 per-  
22 cent less likely than women to visit a doctor, and are  
23 significantly less likely to have regular physician  
24 check-ups and obtain preventive screening tests for  
25 serious diseases.

1           (16) Appropriate use of tests such as prostate  
2           specific antigen (PSA) exams and blood pressure,  
3           blood sugar, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction  
4           with clinical exams and self-testing, can result in the  
5           early detection of many problems and in increased  
6           survival rates.

7           (17) Educating men, their families, and health  
8           care providers about the importance of early detec-  
9           tion of male health problems can result in reducing  
10          rates of mortality for male-specific diseases, as well  
11          as improve the health of America's men and its over-  
12          all economic well-being.

13          (18) Recent scientific studies have shown that  
14          regular medical exams, preventive screenings, reg-  
15          ular exercise, and healthy eating habits can help  
16          save lives.

17          (19) Establishing an Office of Men's Health is  
18          needed to investigate these findings and take such  
19          further actions as may be needed to promote men's  
20          health.

21 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE MEN'S HEALTH.**

22          Title XVII of the Public Health Service Act (42  
23          U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
24          the following section:

1                                   “OFFICE OF MEN’S HEALTH  
2           “SEC. 1711. The Secretary shall establish within the  
3 Department of Health and Human Services an office to  
4 be known as the Office of Men’s Health, which shall be  
5 headed by a director appointed by the Secretary. The Sec-  
6 retary, acting through the Director of the Office, shall co-  
7 ordinate and promote the status of men’s health in the  
8 United States.”.

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