

106TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3215

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize women’s health research award programs conducted through the National Institutes of Health.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 18 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 22), 2000

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

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize women’s health research award programs conducted through the National Institutes of 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 Re-
5 search Career Enhancement Act of 2000”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The Public Health Service’s Task Force on
9 Women’s Health Issues concluded in 1985 that
10 women’s health care was compromised by the lack of

1 research focus on women's health concerns. Since
2 then, progress has been made to expand women's
3 health research, but more can be done to strengthen
4 our nation's capacity to aggressively investigate the
5 diseases and conditions primarily affecting women.

6 (2) A growing body of evidence demonstrates
7 dramatic differences between women's and men's bi-
8 ology, including symptoms of disease, mechanism of
9 disease and responses to treatment.

10 (3) Women and men differ in disease presen-
11 tation and treatment outcomes of coronary heart
12 disease. Women comprise 80 percent of the popu-
13 lation suffering from osteoporosis. Women comprise
14 75 percent of those afflicted with autoimmune dis-
15 eases. Women and men metabolize food, alcohol,
16 medication, and atmospheric toxins differently.

17 (4) Scientific research will reap maximum re-
18 turns when it involves teams of investigators with
19 expertise in various disciplines. A comprehensive,
20 targeted effort is necessary to develop a multi-dis-
21 ciplinary cadre of researchers with the interest and
22 expertise to develop the field of gender based health
23 research so that it has the greatest impact on all
24 women and men.

1 (5) Mentoring between junior and senior sci-
2 entists is vitally important to promoting an inclusive
3 and diverse research environment, leading to the re-
4 tention and advancement of talented scientists from
5 all segments of the population and enhancing the
6 nation's investment in treatments and cures for the
7 diseases and conditions that affect Americans.

8 (6) The Women's Reproductive Health Re-
9 search Career Development Centers and the Build-
10 ing Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women's
11 Health grant programs have stimulated women's
12 health research across a variety of disciplines.

13 (7) Expanding the initiatives described in para-
14 graph (6) will speed breakthroughs in women's
15 health research by building and improving the net-
16 work of scientific investigators who are experts in
17 the diseases and conditions that affect women.

18 **SEC. 3. BUILDING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CA-**
19 **REERS IN WOMEN'S HEALTH.**

20 Part A of title III of the Public Health Service Act
21 (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
22 the following:

1 **“SEC. 310A. BUILDING INTERDISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CA-**
2 **REERS IN WOMEN’S HEALTH.**

3 “(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of the section to
4 provide funding to enable the Director of the Office of Re-
5 search on Women’s Health, in coordination with the Di-
6 rector of the National Institute of Child Health and
7 Human Development and other Institutes and centers of
8 the National Institutes of Health, to carry out the Build-
9 ing Interdisciplinary Research Careers in Women’s Health
10 program (as authorized under section 301) to support the
11 career development of scientists who are commencing
12 basic, translational, clinical, behavioral or health services
13 research relevant to women’s health in an interdisciplinary
14 scientific setting.

15 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
16 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
17 necessary for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2006 to
18 enable the Director of the Office of Research on Women’s
19 Health to carry out the program described in subsection
20 (a).

21 “(c) REQUIREMENTS FOR GRANTS.—

22 “(1) ELIGIBILITY.—In making awards under
23 the program described in subsection (a), the Direc-
24 tor of the Office of Research on Women’s Health,
25 acting through the Director of the National Institute
26 of Child Health and Human Development and other

1 Institutes and centers of the National Institutes of
2 Health, shall, with respect to an institution,
3 consider—

4 “(A) domestic for-profit and nonprofit,
5 non-Federal, public or private organizations;

6 “(B) the extent to which the institution
7 has the clinical specialties and subspecialties,
8 and the clinical and research facilities, suffi-
9 cient to meet the objective of the program of
10 bridging clinical or post-doctoral training with a
11 career in interdisciplinary research relevant to
12 women’s health; and

13 “(C) other factors determined appropriate
14 by the Directors.

15 “(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—With respect
16 to the program described in subsection (a), nothing
17 in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit the
18 application by the Director of the Office of Research
19 on Women’s Health of eligibility or other require-
20 ments, including requirements applied to applicants
21 under such program in the fiscal year prior to the
22 date of enactment of this section.”.

1 **SEC. 3. WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH CA-**
2 **REER DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

3 Part A of title III of the Public Health Service Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.), as amended by section 3, is fur-
5 ther amended by adding at the end the following:

6 **"SEC. 310B. WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH RESEARCH**
7 **CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.**

8 "(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to
9 provide for the funding of Women's Reproductive Health
10 Research Career Development Centers to enable the Di-
11 rector of the National Institute of Child Health and
12 Human Development, in collaboration with the Director
13 of the National Institutes of Health, to—

14 "(1) assist in improving the health of women
15 and infants by training new researchers in reproduc-
16 tive health science;

17 "(2) address concerns raised in a recent study
18 by the National Research Council about the declin-
19 ing number of physician-investigators; and

20 "(3) provide newly trained obstetric-gynecologic
21 clinicians with training and support, through the
22 Women's Reproductive Health Research Career De-
23 velopment Centers, to assist in such clinicians in
24 their pursuit of research careers to address problems
25 in women's obstetric and gynecologic health.

1 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
3 necessary for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2006 to
4 enable the Director of the National Institute of Child
5 Health and Human Development to fund Women’s Repro-
6 ductive Health Research Career Development Centers for
7 the purposes described in subsection (a).

8 “(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—With respect to the
9 program described in subsection (a), nothing in this sec-
10 tion shall be construed to prohibit the application by the
11 Director of the National Institute of Child Health and
12 Human Development of eligibility or other requirements,
13 including requirements applied to applicants under such
14 program, in the fiscal year prior to the date of enactment
15 of this section.”.

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