

107<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# S. 2616

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

JUNE 12, 2002

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       2002".

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       Congress makes the following findings:

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

1           (2) While this health crisis is of particular con-  
2           cern to men, it is also a concern for women regard-  
3           ing their fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers.

4           (3) Men's health is a concern for employers who  
5           pay the costs of medical care, and lose productive  
6           employees.

7           (4) Men's health is a concern to Federal and  
8           State governments which absorb the enormous costs  
9           of premature death and disability, including the  
10          costs of caring for dependents left behind.

11          (5) The life expectancy gap between men and  
12          women has increased from one year in 1920 to al-  
13          most six years in 1998.

14          (6) Prostate cancer is the most frequently diag-  
15          nosed cancer in the United States among men, ac-  
16          counting for 36 percent of all cancer cases.

17          (7) An estimated 180,000 men will be newly di-  
18          agnosed with prostate cancer this year alone, and  
19          37,000 will die.

20          (8) The American Heart Association reports  
21          that heart attack is the single biggest killer of Amer-  
22          ican males. Men are more likely to die of stroke and  
23          are almost twice as likely to die of heart disease  
24          than are women. High blood pressure increases the  
25          risk for stroke and heart attack and men under age

1       55 are much more likely to suffer from high blood  
2       pressure than are women.

3           (9) An estimated 7,600 men will be diagnosed  
4       this year with testicular cancer, and 400 of these  
5       men will die of this disease in 2002. A common rea-  
6       son for delay in treatment of this disease is a delay  
7       in seeking medical attention after discovering a tes-  
8       ticular mass.

9           (10) Studies show that men are at least 25 per-  
10       cent less likely than women to visit a doctor, and are  
11       significantly less likely to have regular physician  
12       check-ups and obtain preventive screening tests for  
13       serious diseases.

14          (11) Appropriate use of tests such as prostate  
15       specific antigen (PSA) exams and blood pressure,  
16       blood sugar, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction  
17       with clinical exams and self-testing, can result in the  
18       early detection of many problems and in increased  
19       survival rates.

20          (12) Educating men, their families, and health  
21       care providers about the importance of early detec-  
22       tion of male health problems can result in reducing  
23       rates of mortality for male-specific diseases, as well  
24       as improve the health of America's men and its over-  
25       all economic well-being.

1           (13) Recent scientific studies have shown that  
2           regular medical exams, preventive screenings, reg-  
3           ular exercise, and healthy eating habits can help  
4           save lives.

5           (14) Establishing an Office of Men’s Health is  
6           needed to investigate these findings and take such  
7           further actions as may be needed to promote men’s  
8           health.

9   **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF MEN’S HEALTH.**

10          (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XVII of the Public Health  
11          Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by adding  
12          at the end the following:

13                               “OFFICE OF MEN’S HEALTH

14          “SEC. 1711. The Secretary shall establish within the  
15          Department of Health and Human Services an office to  
16          be known as the Office of Men’s Health, which shall be  
17          headed by a director appointed by the Secretary. The Sec-  
18          retary, acting through the Director of the Office, shall co-  
19          ordinate and promote the status of men’s health in the  
20          United States.”.

21          (b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date  
22          of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and  
23          Human Services, acting through the Director of the Office  
24          of Men’s Health (established under section 1711 of the  
25          Public Health Service Act as added by subsection (a)),  
26          shall submit to Congress a report describing the activities

1 of such Office, including findings that the Director has  
2 made regarding men's health.

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