

Public Law 100-553  
100th Congress

An Act

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish within the National Institutes of Health a National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.

Oct. 28, 1988

[S. 1727]

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act shall be cited as the "National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Act of 1988".

National  
Deafness and  
Other  
Communication  
Disorders Act of  
1988.  
42 USC 201 note.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT AND TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.

Title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 401(b)(1)—

(A) by striking "and Communicative" in subparagraph (J); and

(B) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:  
"(M) The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders.";

(2) in the heading for subpart 10 of part C, by striking "and Communicative";

(3) in section 457—

(A) by striking "and Communicative"; and

(B) by striking "disorder, stroke," and all that follows and inserting "and disorder and stroke."; and

(4) in Part C, by adding at the end the following new subpart:

"Subpart 13—National Institute on Deafness and Other  
Communication Disorders

Education.  
Research and  
development.  
Public  
information.

"PURPOSE OF THE INSTITUTE

"SEC. 464. The general purpose of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders (hereafter referred to in this subpart as the 'Institute') is the conduct and support of research and training, the dissemination of health information, and other programs with respect to disorders of hearing and other communication processes, including diseases affecting hearing, balance, voice, speech, language, taste, and smell.

42 USC 285m.

"NATIONAL DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS  
PROGRAM

"SEC. 464A. (a) The Director of the Institute, with the advice of the Institute's advisory council, shall establish a National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Program (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Program'). The Director or the Institute shall, with respect to the Program, prepare and transmit to the Director of NIH a plan to initiate, expand, intensify and coordinate activities of the Institute respecting disorders of hearing (including tinnitus) and

42 USC 285m-1.

other communication processes, including diseases affecting hearing, balance, voice, speech, language, taste, and smell. The plan shall include such comments and recommendations as the Director of the Institute determines appropriate. The Director of the Institute shall periodically review and revise the plan and shall transmit any revisions of the plan to the Director of NIH.

“(b) Activities under the Program shall include—

“(1) investigation into the etiology, pathology, detection, treatment, and prevention of all forms of disorders of hearing and other communication processes, primarily through the support of basic research in such areas as anatomy, audiology, biochemistry, bioengineering, epidemiology, genetics, immunology, microbiology, molecular biology, the neurosciences, otolaryngology, psychology, pharmacology, physiology, speech and language pathology, and any other scientific disciplines that can contribute important knowledge to the understanding and elimination of disorders of hearing and other communication processes;

“(2) research into the evaluation of techniques (including surgical, medical, and behavioral approaches) and devices (including hearing aids, implanted auditory and nonauditory prosthetic devices and other communication aids) used in diagnosis, treatment, rehabilitation, and prevention of disorders of hearing and other communication processes;

“(3) research into prevention, and early detection and diagnosis, of hearing loss and speech and language disturbances (including stuttering) and research into preventing the effects of such disorders on learning and learning disabilities with extension of programs for appropriate referral and rehabilitation;

“(4) research into the detection, treatment, and prevention of disorders of hearing and other communication processes in the growing elderly population with extension of rehabilitative programs to ensure continued effective communication skills in such population;

“(5) research to expand knowledge of the effects of environmental agents that influence hearing or other communication processes; and

“(6) developing and facilitating intramural programs on clinical and fundamental aspects of disorders of hearing and all other communication processes.

#### “DATA SYSTEM AND INFORMATION CLEARINGHOUSE

42 USC 285m-2.

“SEC. 464B. (a) The Director of the Institute shall establish a National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Data System for the collection, storage, analysis, retrieval, and dissemination of data derived from patient populations with disorders of hearing or other communication processes, including where possible, data involving general populations for the purpose of identifying individuals at risk of developing such disorders.

“(b) The Director of the Institute shall establish a National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Information Clearinghouse to facilitate and enhance, through the effective dissemination of information, knowledge and understanding of disorders of hearing and other communication processes by health professionals, patients, industry, and the public.

**"MULTIPURPOSE DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION DISORDERS  
CENTER**

"SEC. 464C. (a) The Director of the Institute shall, after consultation with the advisory council for the Institute, provide for the development, modernization, and operation (including care required for research) of new and existing centers for studies of disorders of hearing and other communication processes. For purposes of this section, the term 'modernization' means the alteration, remodeling, improvement, expansion, and repair of existing buildings and the provision of equipment for such buildings to the extent necessary to make them suitable for use as centers described in the preceding sentence.

42 USC 285m-3.

"(b) Each center assisted under this section shall—

"(1) use the facilities of a single institution or a consortium of cooperating institutions; and

"(2) meet such qualifications as may be prescribed by the Secretary.

"(c) Each center assisted under this section shall, at least, conduct—

"(1) basic and clinical research into the cause diagnosis, early detection, prevention, control and treatment of disorders of hearing and other communication processes and complications resulting from such disorders, including research into rehabilitative aids, implantable biomaterials, auditory speech processors, speech production devices, and other otolaryngologic procedures;

"(2) training programs for physicians, scientists, and other health and allied health professionals;

Health care  
professionals.

"(3) information and continuing education programs for physicians and other health and allied health professionals who will provide care for patients with disorders of hearing or other communication processes; and

"(4) programs for the dissemination to the general public of information—

"(A) on the importance of early detection of disorders of hearing and other communication processes, of seeking prompt treatment, rehabilitation, and of following an appropriate regimen; and

"(B) on the importance of avoiding exposure to noise and other environmental toxic agents that may affect disorders of hearing or other communication processes.

"(d) A center may use funds provided under subsection (a) to provide stipends for health professionals enrolled in training programs described in subsection (c)(2).

"(e) Each center assisted under this section may conduct programs—

"(1) to establish the effectiveness of new and improved methods of detection, referral, and diagnosis of individuals at risk of developing disorders of hearing or other communication processes; and

"(2) to disseminate the results of research, screening, and other activities, and develop means of standardizing patient data and recordkeeping.

"(f) The Director of the Institute shall, to the extent practicable, provide for an equitable geographical distribution of centers assisted under this section. The Director shall give appropriate consideration

Aged persons.  
Children and  
youth.

to the need for centers especially suited to meeting the needs of the elderly, and of children (particularly with respect to their education and training), affected by disorders of hearing or other communication processes.

“(g) Support of a center under this section may be for a period not to exceed seven years. Such period may be extended by the Director of the Institute for one or more additional periods of not more than five years if the operations of such center have been reviewed by an appropriate technical and scientific peer review group established by the Director, with the advice of the Institute’s advisory council, if such group has recommended to the Director that such period should be extended.

“NATIONAL INSTITUTE ON DEAFNESS AND OTHER COMMUNICATION  
DISORDERS ADVISORY BOARD

42 USC 285m-4.

“SEC. 464D. (a) The Secretary shall establish in the Institute the National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Board (hereafter in this section referred to as the ‘Advisory Board’).

“(b) The Advisory Board shall be composed of eighteen appointed members and nonvoting ex officio members as follows:

“(1) The Secretary shall appoint—

“(A) twelve members from individuals who are scientists, physicians, and other health and rehabilitation professionals, who are not officers or employees of the United States, and who represent the specialties and disciplines relevant to deafness and other communication disorders, including not less than two persons with a communication disorder; and

“(B) six members from the general public who are knowledgeable with respect to such disorders, including not less than one person with a communication disorder and not less than one person who is a parent of an individual with such a disorder.

Of the appointed members, not less than five shall by virtue of training or experience be knowledgeable in diagnoses and rehabilitation of communication disorders, education of the hearing, speech, or language impaired, public health, public information, community program development, occupational hazards to communications senses, or the aging process.

“(2) The following shall be ex officio members of each Advisory Board:

“(A) The Assistant Secretary for Health, the Director of NIH, the Director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, the Director of the Centers for Disease Control, the Chief Medical Director of the Veterans’ Administration, and the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Health Affairs (or the designees of such officers).

“(B) Such other officers and employees of the United States as the Secretary determines necessary for the Advisory Board to carry out its functions.

“(c) Members of an Advisory Board who are officers or employees of the Federal Government shall serve as members of the Advisory Board without compensation in addition to that received in their regular public employment. Other members of the Board shall receive compensation at rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of

the annual rate in effect for grade GS-18 of the General Schedule for each day (including traveltime) they are engaged in the performance of their duties as members of the Board.

"(d) The term of office of an appointed member of the Advisory Board is four years, except that no term of office may extend beyond the expiration of the Advisory Board. Any member appointed to fill a vacancy for an unexpired term shall be appointed for the remainder of such term. A member may serve after the expiration of the member's term until a successor has taken office. If a vacancy occurs in the Advisory Board, the Secretary shall make an appointment to fill the vacancy not later than 90 days from the date the vacancy occurred.

"(e) The members of the Advisory Board shall select a chairman from among the appointed members.

"(f) The Secretary shall, after consultation with and consideration of the recommendations of the Advisory Board, provide the Advisory Board with an executive director and one other professional staff member. In addition, the Secretary shall, after consultation with and consideration of the recommendations of the Advisory Board, provide the Advisory Board with such additional professional staff members, such clerical staff members, such services of consultants, such information, and (through contracts or other arrangements) such administrative support services and facilities, as the Secretary determines are necessary for the Advisory Board to carry out its functions.

"(g) The Advisory Board shall meet at the call of the chairman or upon request of the Director of the Institute, but not less often than four times a year.

"(h) The Advisory Board shall—

"(1) review and evaluate the implementation of the plan prepared under section 464A(a) and periodically update the plan to ensure its continuing relevance;

"(2) for the purpose of assuring the most effective use and organization of resources respecting deafness and other communication disorders, advise and make recommendations to the Congress, the Secretary, the Director of NIH, the Director of the Institute, and the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies for the implementation and revision of such plan; and

"(3) maintain liaison with other advisory bodies related to Federal agencies involved in the implementation of such plan and with key non-Federal entities involved in activities affecting the control of such disorders.

"(i) In carrying out its functions, the Advisory Board may establish subcommittees, convene workshops and conferences, and collect data. Such subcommittees may be composed of Advisory Board members and nonmember consultants with expertise in the particular area addressed by such subcommittees. The subcommittees may hold such meetings as are necessary to enable them to carry out their activities.

"(j) The Advisory Board shall prepare an annual report for the Secretary which—

Reports.

"(1) describes the Advisory Board's activities in the fiscal year for which the report is made;

"(2) describes and evaluates the progress made in such fiscal year in research, treatment, education, and training with respect to the deafness and other communication disorders;



"(3) summarizes and analyzes expenditures made by the Federal Government for activities respecting such disorders in such fiscal year; and

"(4) contains the Advisory Board's recommendations (if any) for changes in the plan prepared under section 464A(a).

"(k) The National Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Advisory Board shall be established not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Act.

#### "INTERAGENCY COORDINATING COMMITTEE

42 USC 285m-5.

"SEC. 464E. (a) The Secretary may establish a committee to be known as the Deafness and Other Communication Disorders Interagency Coordinating Committee (hereafter in this section referred to as the 'Coordinating Committee').

"(b) The Coordinating Committee shall, with respect to deafness and other communication disorders—

"(1) provide for the coordination of the activities of the national research institutes; and

"(2) coordinate the aspects of all Federal health programs and activities relating to deafness and other communication disorders in order to assure the adequacy and technical soundness of such programs and activities and in order to provide for the full communication and exchange of information necessary to maintain adequate coordination of such programs and activities.

"(c) The Coordinating Committee shall be composed of the directors of each of the national research institutes and divisions involved in research with respect to deafness and other communication disorders and representatives of all other Federal departments and agencies whose programs involve health functions or responsibilities relevant to deafness and other communication disorders.

"(d) The Committee shall be chaired by the Director of NIH (or the designee of the Director). The Committee shall meet at the call of the chair, but not less often than four times a year.

Reports.

"(e) Not later than 120 days after the end of each fiscal year, the Committee shall prepare and transmit to the Secretary, the Director of NIH, the Director of the Institute, and the advisory council for the Institute a report detailing the activities of the Committee in such fiscal year in carrying out subsection (b).

#### "LIMITATION ON ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES

42 USC 285m-6.

"SEC. 464F. With respect to amounts appropriated for a fiscal year for the National Institutes of Health, the limitation established in section 408(b)(1) on the expenditure of such amounts for administrative expenses shall apply to administrative expenses of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders."

42 USC 285m  
note.  
Gifts and  
property.  
Contracts.  
Records.

#### SEC. 3. TRANSITIONAL AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

(a) **TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL, ASSETS, AND LIABILITIES.**—Personnel employed by the National Institutes of Health in connection with the functions vested under section 2 in the Director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, and assets, property, contracts, liabilities, records, unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds of the National Institutes of Health, arising from or employed, held, used,

available to, or to be made available, in connection with such functions shall be transferred to the Director for appropriate allocation. Unexpended funds transferred under this subsection shall be used only for the purposes for which the funds were originally authorized and appropriated.

(b) SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—With respect to functions vested under section 1 in the Director of the National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders, all orders, rules, regulations, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, privileges, and other determinations, actions, or official documents, that have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective, and that are effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, shall continue in effect according to their terms unless changed pursuant to law.

Grants.  
Contracts.

Approved October 28, 1988.

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**LEGISLATIVE HISTORY—S. 1727 (H.R. 3361):**

HOUSE REPORTS: No. 100-761 accompanying H.R. 3361 (Comm. on Energy and Commerce).

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Vol. 134 (1988):

July 11, 12, H.R. 3361 considered and passed House.

Aug. 3, considered and passed Senate, amended.

Oct. 7, S. 1727 considered and passed Senate.

Oct. 13, considered and passed House.