

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 556

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program of providing information and education to the public on the prevention and treatment of eating disorders.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 1997

Ms. SLAUGHTER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program of providing information and education to the public on the prevention and treatment of eating disorders.

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 “Eating Disorders In-
5 formation and Education Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Eating disorders include anorexia nervosa,
9 bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorder, as well

1 as eating disorders not otherwise defined or yet identified.
2

3 (2) Eating disorders primarily affect women
4 and girls, to the point that dieting and body dissatisfaction is considered normative behavior even
5 among those considered average or underweight.
6

7 (3) Many girls begin dieting at a young age and
8 in large numbers, as revealed in one study where 80
9 percent of girls reported they had already been on
10 a diet to lose weight before age 13.

11 (4) Dieting at an early age can interfere with
12 normal physiological development and can lead to serious eating disorders, which can result in cardiac
13 impairments, depression, substance abuse,
14 osteoporosis, infertility, amenorrhea, anemia, and
15 other medical conditions.
16

17 (5) Eating disorders can lead to death, with the
18 National Institute of Mental Health reporting that 1
19 in 10 people with anorexia nervosa die of starvation,
20 cardiac arrest, or other medical complications.

21 (6) There are effective treatments for some eating
22 disorders, although medical authorities are uncertain to what extent these disorders are caused by
23 physiological factors, by psychosocial factors, or by
24 both.
25

1 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ON EATING**
2 **DISORDERS.**

3 Subpart 3 of part B of title V of the Public Health
4 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31 et seq.) is amended by
5 adding at the end the following section:

6 “EATING DISORDERS

7 “SEC. 520C. (a) INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.—

8 The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Center
9 for Mental Health Services, shall carry out a program to
10 provide information and education to the public on the
11 prevention and treatment of eating disorders.

12 “(b) TOLL-FREE TELEPHONE COMMUNICATIONS.—

13 In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall provide
14 for the operation of toll-free telephone communications to
15 provide information to the public on eating disorders, in-
16 cluding referrals for services for the prevention and treat-
17 ment of such disorders. Such communications shall be
18 available on a 24-hour, 7-day basis.

19 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
20 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
21 to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and
22 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years
23 1999 and 2000.”.

