

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 847

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 26, 1997

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mrs. MORELLA) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## 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:

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1           (1) Eating disorders include anorexia nervosa,  
2           bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorder, as well  
3           as eating disorders not otherwise defined.

4           (2) Anorexia nervosa and bulimia each can re-  
5           sult in death, cardiac impairments, depression, sub-  
6           stance abuse, osteoporosis, infertility, amenorrhea,  
7           anemia, and other medical conditions.

8           (3) Medical authorities are uncertain to what  
9           extent eating disorders are caused by physiological  
10          factors, by psychosocial factors, or by both.

11          (4) Such disorders primarily affect women. As  
12          many as 7 percent of women may be experiencing  
13          eating disorders, and the rate of new cases is in-  
14          creasing. As many as 80 percent of women may dur-  
15          ing their lifetimes display symptoms of eating dis-  
16          orders.

17          (5) There are effective treatments for some eat-  
18          ing disorders.

19   **SEC. 3. PUBLIC INFORMATION AND EDUCATION ON EATING**  
20                   **DISORDERS.**

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

24                   “EATING DISORDERS

25          “SEC. 520C. (a) INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.—  
26   The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Center

1 for Mental Health Services, shall carry out a program to  
2 provide information and education to the public on the  
3 prevention and treatment of eating disorders.

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

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

11 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
12 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
13 to be appropriated \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and  
14 such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years  
15 1999 and 2000.”.

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