

105TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 101

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the training of health professions students with respect to the identification and referral of victims of domestic violence.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 21, 1997

Mrs. BOXER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the training of health professions students with respect to the identification and referral of victims of domestic violence.

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 “Domestic Violence  
5       Identification and Referral Act of 1997”.

1 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT, FOR CERTAIN HEALTH PROFES-**  
2 **SIONS PROGRAMS, OF PROVISIONS REGARD-**  
3 **ING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.**

4 (a) TITLE VII PROGRAMS; PREFERENCES IN FINAN-  
5 CIAL AWARDS.—Section 791 of the Public Health Service  
6 Act (42 U.S.C. 295j) is amended by adding at the end  
7 the following:

8 “(c) PREFERENCES REGARDING TRAINING IN IDEN-  
9 TIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC  
10 VIOLENCE.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a health pro-  
12 fessions entity specified in paragraph (2), the Sec-  
13 retary shall, in making awards of grants or contracts  
14 under this title, give preference to any such entity  
15 (if otherwise a qualified applicant for the award in-  
16 volved) that has in effect the requirement that, as a  
17 condition of receiving a degree or certificate (as ap-  
18 plicable) from the entity, each student have had sig-  
19 nificant training in carrying out the following func-  
20 tions as a provider of health care:

21 “(A) Identifying victims of domestic vio-  
22 lence, and maintaining complete medical  
23 records that include documentation of the ex-  
24 amination, treatment given, and referrals made,  
25 and recording the location and nature of the  
26 victim’s injuries.

1           “(B) Examining and treating such victims,  
2           within the scope of the health professional’s dis-  
3           cipline, training, and practice, including, at a  
4           minimum, providing medical advice regarding  
5           the dynamics and nature of domestic violence.

6           “(C) Referring the victims to public and  
7           nonprofit private entities that provide services  
8           for such victims.

9           “(2) RELEVANT HEALTH PROFESSIONS ENTI-  
10          TIES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a health pro-  
11          fessions entity specified in this paragraph is any en-  
12          tity that is a school of medicine, a school of osteo-  
13          pathic medicine, a graduate program in mental  
14          health practice, a school of nursing (as defined in  
15          section 853), a program for the training of physician  
16          assistants, or a program for the training of allied  
17          health professionals.

18          “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2  
19          years after the date of the enactment of the Domes-  
20          tic Violence Identification and Referral Act of 1997,  
21          the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on  
22          Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the  
23          Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the  
24          Senate, a report specifying the health professions en-  
25          tities that are receiving preference under paragraph

1 (1); the number of hours of training required by the  
 2 entities for purposes of such paragraph; the extent  
 3 of clinical experience so required; and the types of  
 4 courses through which the training is being pro-  
 5 vided.

6 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-  
 7 section, the term ‘domestic violence’ includes behav-  
 8 ior commonly referred to as domestic violence, sexual  
 9 assault, spousal abuse, woman battering, partner  
 10 abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and acquaintance  
 11 rape.”.

12 (b) TITLE VIII PROGRAMS; PREFERENCES IN FI-  
 13 NANCIAL AWARDS.—Section 860 of the Public Health  
 14 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 298b–7) is amended by adding at  
 15 the end the following:

16 “(f) PREFERENCES REGARDING TRAINING IN IDEN-  
 17 TIFICATION AND REFERRAL OF VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC  
 18 VIOLENCE.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a health pro-  
 20 fessions entity specified in paragraph (2), the Sec-  
 21 retary shall, in making awards of grants or contracts  
 22 under this title, give preference to any such entity  
 23 (if otherwise a qualified applicant for the award in-  
 24 volved) that has in effect the requirement that, as a

1 condition of receiving a degree or certificate (as ap-  
2 plicable) from the entity, each student have had sig-  
3 nificant training in carrying out the following func-  
4 tions as a provider of health care:

5 “(A) Identifying victims of domestic vio-  
6 lence, and maintaining complete medical  
7 records that include documentation of the ex-  
8 amination, treatment given, and referrals made,  
9 and recording the location and nature of the  
10 victim’s injuries.

11 “(B) Examining and treating such victims,  
12 within the scope of the health professional’s dis-  
13 cipline, training, and practice, including, at a  
14 minimum, providing medical advice regarding  
15 the dynamics and nature of domestic violence.

16 “(C) Referring the victims to public and  
17 nonprofit private entities that provide services  
18 for such victims.

19 “(2) RELEVANT HEALTH PROFESSIONS ENTI-  
20 TIES.—For purposes of paragraph (1), a health pro-  
21 fessions entity specified in this paragraph is any en-  
22 tity that is a school of nursing or other public or  
23 nonprofit private entity that is eligible to receive an  
24 award described in such paragraph.

1           “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2  
2       years after the date of the enactment of the Domes-  
3       tic Violence Identification and Referral Act of 1997,  
4       the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on  
5       Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the  
6       Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the  
7       Senate, a report specifying the health professions en-  
8       tities that are receiving preference under paragraph  
9       (1); the number of hours of training required by the  
10      entities for purposes of such paragraph; the extent  
11      of clinical experience so required; and the types of  
12      courses through which the training is being pro-  
13      vided.

14           “(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this sub-  
15      section, the term ‘domestic violence’ includes behav-  
16      ior commonly referred to as domestic violence, sexual  
17      assault, spousal abuse, woman battering, partner  
18      abuse, child abuse, elder abuse, and acquaintance  
19      rape.”.

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