

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1875

To initiate a coordinated national effort to prevent, detect, and educate the public concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and to identify effective interventions for children, adolescents, and adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 27, 1998

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

A BILL

To initiate a coordinated national effort to prevent, detect, and educate the public concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and to identify effective interventions for children, adolescents, and adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect, and for other purposes.

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 “Fetal Alcohol Syn-
5 drome and Fetal Alcohol Effect Prevention and Services
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds that—

3 (1) Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the leading
4 known cause of mental retardation, and it is 100
5 percent preventable;

6 (2) each year, up to 12,000 infants are born in
7 the United States with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, suf-
8 fering irreversible physical and mental damage;

9 (3) thousands more infants are born each year
10 with Fetal Alcohol Effect, also known as Alcohol Re-
11 lated Neurobehavioral Disorder (ARND), a related
12 and equally tragic syndrome;

13 (4) children of women who use alcohol while
14 pregnant have a significantly higher infant mortality
15 rate (13.3 per 1000) than children of those women
16 who do not use alcohol (8.6 per 1000);

17 (5) Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol
18 Effect are national problems which can impact any
19 child, family, or community, but their threat to
20 American Indians and Alaska Natives is especially
21 alarming;

22 (6) in some American Indian communities,
23 where alcohol dependency rates reach 50 percent
24 and above, the chances of a newborn suffering Fetal
25 Alcohol Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Effect are up to
26 30 times greater than national averages;

1 (7) in addition to the immeasurable toll on chil-
2 dren and their families, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and
3 Fetal Alcohol Effect pose extraordinary financial
4 costs to the Nation, including the costs of health
5 care, education, foster care, job training, and gen-
6 eral support services for affected individuals;

7 (8) the total cost to the economy of Fetal Alco-
8 hol Syndrome was approximately \$2,500,000,000 in
9 1995, and over a lifetime, health care costs for one
10 Fetal Alcohol Syndrome child are estimated to be at
11 least \$1,400,000;

12 (9) researchers have determined that the possi-
13 bility of giving birth to a baby with Fetal Alcohol
14 Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Effect increases in pro-
15 portion to the amount and frequency of alcohol con-
16 sumed by a pregnant woman, and that stopping al-
17 cohol consumption at any point in the pregnancy re-
18 duces the emotional, physical, and mental con-
19 sequences of alcohol exposure to the baby; and

20 (10) though approximately 1 out of every 5
21 pregnant women drink alcohol during their preg-
22 nancy, we know of no safe dose of alcohol during
23 pregnancy, or of any safe time to drink during preg-
24 nancy, thus, it is in the best interest of the Nation
25 for the Federal Government to take an active role in

1 encouraging all women to abstain from alcohol con-
2 sumption during pregnancy.

3 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

4 It is the purpose of this Act to establish, within the
5 Department of Health and Human Services, a comprehen-
6 sive program to help prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and
7 Fetal Alcohol Effect nationwide and to provide effective
8 intervention programs and services for children, adoles-
9 cents and adults already affected by these conditions.
10 Such program shall—

11 (1) coordinate, support, and conduct national,
12 State, and community-based public awareness, pre-
13 vention, and education programs on Fetal Alcohol
14 Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect;

15 (2) coordinate, support, and conduct prevention
16 and intervention studies as well as epidemiologic re-
17 search concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal
18 Alcohol Effect;

19 (3) coordinate, support and conduct research
20 and demonstration projects to develop effective de-
21 velopmental and behavioral interventions and pro-
22 grams that foster effective advocacy, educational and
23 vocational training, appropriate therapies, counsel-
24 ing, medical and mental health, and other supportive
25 services, as well as models that integrate or coordi-

1 nate such services, aimed at the unique challenges
 2 facing individuals with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or
 3 Fetal Alcohol Effect and their families; and

4 (4) foster coordination among all Federal, State
 5 and local agencies, and promote partnerships be-
 6 tween research institutions and communities that
 7 conduct or support Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and
 8 Fetal Alcohol Effect research, programs, surveil-
 9 lance, prevention, and interventions and otherwise
 10 meet the general needs of populations already af-
 11 fected or at risk of being impacted by Fetal Alcohol
 12 Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect.

13 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

14 Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 15 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the follow-
 16 ing:

17 **“PART O—FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME**
 18 **PREVENTION AND SERVICES PROGRAM**

19 **“SEC. 399G. ESTABLISHMENT OF FETAL ALCOHOL SYN-**
 20 **DROME PREVENTION AND SERVICES PRO-**
 21 **GRAM.**

22 “(a) FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME PREVENTION,
 23 INTERVENTION AND SERVICES DELIVERY PROGRAM.—
 24 The Secretary shall establish a comprehensive Fetal Alco-

1 hol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect prevention, inter-
2 vention and services delivery program that shall include—

3 “(1) an education and public awareness pro-
4 gram to support, conduct, and evaluate the effective-
5 ness of—

6 “(A) educational programs targeting medi-
7 cal schools, social and other supportive services,
8 educators and counselors and other service pro-
9 viders in all phases of childhood development,
10 and other relevant service providers, concerning
11 the prevention, identification, and provision of
12 services for children, adolescents and adults
13 with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol
14 Effect;

15 “(B) strategies to educate school-age chil-
16 dren, including pregnant and high risk youth,
17 concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal
18 Alcohol Effect;

19 “(C) public and community awareness pro-
20 grams concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and
21 Fetal Alcohol Effect; and

22 “(D) strategies to coordinate information
23 and services across affected community agen-
24 cies, including agencies providing social services
25 such as foster care, adoption, and social work,

1 medical and mental health services, and agen-
2 cies involved in education, vocational training
3 and civil and criminal justice;

4 “(2) a prevention and diagnosis program to
5 support clinical studies, demonstrations and other
6 research as appropriate to—

7 “(A) develop appropriate medical diag-
8 nostic methods for identifying Fetal Alcohol
9 Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect; and

10 “(B) develop effective prevention services
11 and interventions for pregnant, alcohol-depend-
12 ent women; and

13 “(3) an applied research program concerning
14 intervention and prevention to support and conduct
15 service demonstration projects, clinical studies and
16 other research models providing advocacy, edu-
17 cational and vocational training, counseling, medical
18 and mental health, and other supportive services, as
19 well as models that integrate and coordinate such
20 services, that are aimed at the unique challenges fac-
21 ing individuals with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or
22 Fetal Alcohol Effect and their families.

23 “(b) GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The
24 Secretary may award grants, cooperative agreements and

1 contracts and provide technical assistance to eligible enti-
2 ties described in section 399H to carry out subsection (a).

3 “(c) DISSEMINATION OF CRITERIA.—In carrying out
4 this section, the Secretary shall develop a procedure for
5 disseminating the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alco-
6 hol Effect diagnostic criteria developed pursuant to section
7 705 of the ADAMHA Reorganization Act (42 U.S.C. 485n
8 note) to health care providers, educators, social workers,
9 child welfare workers, and other individuals.

10 “(d) NATIONAL TASK FORCE.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
12 lish a task force to be known as the National task
13 force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol
14 Effect (referred to in this subsection as the ‘task
15 force’) to foster coordination among all govern-
16 mental agencies, academic bodies and community
17 groups that conduct or support Fetal Alcohol Syn-
18 drome and Fetal Alcohol Effect research, programs,
19 and surveillance, and otherwise meet the general
20 needs of populations actually or potentially impacted
21 by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect.

22 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force estab-
23 lished pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

1 “(A) be chaired by an individual to be ap-
2 pointed by the Secretary and staffed by the Ad-
3 ministration; and

4 “(B) include the Chairperson of the Inter-
5 agency Coordinating Committee on Fetal Alco-
6 hol Syndrome of the Department of Health and
7 Human Services, and representatives from re-
8 search and advocacy organizations such as the
9 Research Society on Alcoholism, the FAS Fam-
10 ily Resource Institute and the National Organi-
11 zation of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, the academic
12 community, and Federal, State and local gov-
13 ernment agencies and offices.

14 “(3) FUNCTIONS.—The Task Force shall—

15 “(A) advise Federal, State and local pro-
16 grams and research concerning Fetal Alcohol
17 Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect, including
18 programs and research concerning education
19 and public awareness for relevant service pro-
20 viders, school-age children, women at-risk, and
21 the general public, medical diagnosis, interven-
22 tions for women at-risk of giving birth to chil-
23 dren with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal
24 Alcohol Effect, and beneficial services for indi-

1 viduals with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal
2 Alcohol Effect and their families;

3 “(B) coordinate its efforts with the Inter-
4 agency Coordinating Committee on Fetal Alco-
5 hol Syndrome of the Department of Health and
6 Human Services; and

7 “(C) report on a biennial basis to the Sec-
8 retary and relevant committees of Congress on
9 the current and planned activities of the partici-
10 pating agencies.

11 “(4) TIME FOR APPOINTMENT.—The members
12 of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Sec-
13 retary not later than 6 months after the date of en-
14 actment of this part.

15 **“SEC. 399H. ELIGIBILITY.**

16 “To be eligible to receive a grant, or enter into a co-
17 operative agreement or contract under this part, an entity
18 shall—

19 “(1) be a State, Indian tribal government, local
20 government, scientific or academic institution, or
21 nonprofit organization; and

22 “(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an
23 application at such time, in such manner, and con-
24 taining such information as the Secretary may pre-
25 scribe, including a description of the activities that

1 the entity intends to carry out using amounts re-
2 ceived under this part.

3 **“SEC. 399I. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-
5 propriated to carry out this part, \$27,000,000 for each
6 of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.

7 “(b) TASK FORCE.—From amounts appropriate for
8 a fiscal year under subsection (a), the Secretary may use
9 not to exceed \$2,000,000 of such amounts for the oper-
10 ations of the National Task Force under section 399G(d).

11 **“SEC. 399J. SUNSET PROVISION.**

12 “This part shall not apply on the date that is 7 years
13 after the date on which all members of the national task
14 force have been appointed under section 399G(d)(1).”.

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