

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 697

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 6, 1997

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

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:

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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