

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1897

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Autoimmune Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 9, 1999

Mr. BIDEN introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Autoimmune Diseases at the National Institutes of Health, 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 “NIH Office of Auto-
5 immune Diseases Act of 1999”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF AUTOIMMUNE DIS-**
7 **EASES AT NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.**

8 Title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
9 281 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 404D
10 the following section:

1 “AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES

2 “SEC. 404E. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is estab-
3 lished within the Office of the Director of NIH an office
4 to be known as the Office of Autoimmune Diseases (in
5 this section referred to as the ‘Office’), which shall be
6 headed by a Director appointed by the Director of NIH.

7 “(b) DUTIES.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office,
9 in consultation with the coordinating committee es-
10 tablished under subsection (c), shall carry out the
11 following:

12 “(A) The Director shall recommend an
13 agenda for conducting and supporting research
14 on autoimmune diseases through the national
15 research institutes. The agenda shall provide
16 for a broad range of research and education ac-
17 tivities relating to biomedical, psychosocial, and
18 rehabilitative issues, including studies of the
19 disproportionate impact of such diseases on
20 women.

21 “(B) The Director shall with respect to
22 autoimmune diseases promote coordination and
23 cooperation among the national research insti-
24 tutes and entities whose research is supported
25 by such institutes.

1 “(C) The Director shall promote the ap-
2 propriate allocation of the resources of the Na-
3 tional Institutes of Health for conducting and
4 supporting research on autoimmune diseases.

5 “(D) The Director shall annually prepare a
6 report that describes the research and edu-
7 cation activities on autoimmune diseases being
8 conducted or supported through the national re-
9 search institutes, and that identifies particular
10 projects or types of projects that should in the
11 future be conducted or supported by the na-
12 tional research institutes or other entities in the
13 field of research on autoimmune diseases.

14 “(2) PRINCIPAL ADVISOR REGARDING AUTO-
15 IMMUNE DISEASES.—With respect to autoimmune
16 diseases, the Director of the Office shall serve as the
17 principal advisor to the Secretary, the Assistant Sec-
18 retary for Health, and the Director of NIH, and
19 shall provide advice to the Director of the Centers
20 for Disease Control and Prevention, the Commis-
21 sioner of Food and Drugs, and other relevant agen-
22 cies.

23 “(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—The Director of
24 NIH shall ensure that there is in operation a committee
25 to assist the Director of the Office in carrying out sub-

1 section (b), that the committee is designated as the Auto-
2 immune Diseases Coordinating Committee, and that, to
3 the extent possible, such Coordinating Committee includes
4 liaison members from other Federal health agencies, in-
5 cluding the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
6 and the Food and Drug Administration.

7 “(d) REPORT.—Not later than October 1, 2001, the
8 Comptroller General shall prepare and submit to the ap-
9 propriate committees of Congress a report concerning the
10 effectiveness of the Office in promoting advancements in
11 research, diagnosis, treatment, and prevention related to
12 autoimmune diseases.

13 “(e) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the
14 term ‘autoimmune diseases’ includes diseases or disorders
15 in which autoimmunity is thought to play a significant
16 pathogenetic role, as determined by the Secretary.

17 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
18 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
19 to be appropriated \$950,000 for fiscal year 2000, and
20 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
21 2001 and 2002.”.

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