

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 198

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 19, 1999

Mrs. BOXER 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 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 1999”.

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 1999,
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 806 of the Public Health
 14 Service Act is amended by adding at the end the following:

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

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

1 nificant training in carrying out the following func-
2 tions as a provider of health care:

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

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

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

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

23 “(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2
24 years after the date of the enactment of the Domes-
25 tic Violence Identification and Referral Act of 1999,

1 the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on
2 Commerce of the House of Representatives, and the
3 Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the
4 Senate, a report specifying the health professions en-
5 tities that are receiving preference under paragraph
6 (1); the number of hours of training required by the
7 entities for purposes of such paragraph; the extent
8 of clinical experience so required; and the types of
9 courses through which the training is being pro-
10 vided.

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

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