

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 3814

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment
of a National Center for Social Work Research.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 27, 2002

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (for himself and Mr. UPTON) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for
the establishment of a National Center for Social Work
Research.

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 “National Center for
5 Social Work Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) Social workers focus on the improvement of
9 individual and family functioning and the creation of
10 effective health and mental health prevention and

1 treatment interventions in order for individuals to
 2 become more productive members of society.

3 (2) Social workers provide front line prevention
 4 and treatment services in the areas of school vio-
 5 lence, aging, teen pregnancy, child abuse, domestic
 6 violence, juvenile crime, and substance abuse, par-
 7 ticularly in rural and underserved communities.

8 (3) Social workers are in a unique position to
 9 provide valuable research information on these com-
 10 plex social concerns, taking into account a wide
 11 range of social, medical, economic and community
 12 influences from an interdisciplinary, family-centered
 13 and community-based approach.

14 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CENTER FOR SO-**
 15 **CIAL WORK RESEARCH.**

16 Title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 17 281 et seq.), as amended by title I of Public Law 106–
 18 525, is amended—

19 (1) in section 401(b)(2) (42 U.S.C. 281(b)(2)),
 20 by adding at the end the following:

21 “(H) The National Center for Social Work Re-
 22 search.”; and

23 (2) in part E (42 U.S.C. 287 et seq.), by add-
 24 ing at the end the following:

1 “Subpart 7—National Center for Social Work Research

2 **“SEC. 485J. PURPOSE OF CENTER.**

3 “The general purpose of the National Center for So-
4 cial Work Research (referred to in this subpart as the
5 ‘Center’) is the conduct and support of, and dissemination
6 of targeted research on social work methods and outcomes
7 related to problems of significant social concern. The Cen-
8 ter shall promote research and training designed to inform
9 social work practice, thus increasing the knowledge base
10 which promotes a healthier America. In addition, the Cen-
11 ter shall provide policymakers with empirically-based re-
12 search information to better understand complex social
13 issues and make informed funding decisions about service
14 effectiveness and cost efficiency.

15 **“SEC. 485K. SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purpose de-
17 scribed in section 485J, the Director of the Center may
18 provide research training and instruction and establish, in
19 the Center and in other nonprofit institutions, research
20 traineeships and fellowships in the study and investigation
21 of the prevention of disease, health promotion, the associa-
22 tion of socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, age, and
23 geographical location and health, the social work care of
24 persons with and families of individuals with acute and
25 chronic illnesses, child abuse, neglect, and youth violence,

1 and child and family care to address problems of signifi-
2 cant social concern especially in underserved populations
3 and underserved geographical areas.

4 “(b) STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES.—The Director of
5 the Center may provide individuals receiving training and
6 instruction or traineeships or fellowships under subsection
7 (a) with such stipends and allowances (including amounts
8 for travel and subsistence and dependency allowances) as
9 the Director determines necessary.

10 “(c) GRANTS.—The Director of the Center may make
11 grants to nonprofit institutions to provide training and in-
12 struction and traineeships and fellowships under sub-
13 section (a).

14 **“SEC. 485L. ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

15 “(a) DUTIES.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
17 lish an advisory council for the Center that shall ad-
18 vise, assist, consult with, and make recommenda-
19 tions to the Secretary and the Director of the Center
20 on matters related to the activities carried out by
21 and through the Center and the policies with respect
22 to such activities.

23 “(2) GIFTS.—The advisory council for the Cen-
24 ter may recommend to the Secretary the acceptance,
25 in accordance with section 231, of conditional gifts

1 for study, investigations, and research and for the
2 acquisition of grounds or construction, equipment, or
3 maintenance of facilities for the Center.

4 “(3) OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.—The
5 advisory council for the Center—

6 “(A)(i) may make recommendations to the
7 Director of the Center with respect to research
8 to be conducted by the Center;

9 “(ii) may review applications for grants
10 and cooperative agreements for research or
11 training and recommend for approval applica-
12 tions for projects that demonstrate the prob-
13 ability of making valuable contributions to
14 human knowledge; and

15 “(iii) may review any grant, contract, or
16 cooperative agreement proposed to be made or
17 entered into by the Center;

18 “(B) may collect, by correspondence or by
19 personal investigation, information relating to
20 studies that are being carried out in the United
21 States or any other country and, with the ap-
22 proval of the Director of the Center, make such
23 information available through appropriate publi-
24 cations; and

1 “(C) may appoint subcommittees and con-
2 vene workshops and conferences.

3 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The advisory council shall
5 be composed of the ex officio members described in
6 paragraph (2) and not more than 18 individuals to
7 be appointed by the Secretary under paragraph (3).

8 “(2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The ex officio
9 members of the advisory council shall include—

10 “(A) the Secretary of Health and Human
11 Services, the Director of NIH, the Director of
12 the Center, the Director of the Office of Behav-
13 ioral and Social Sciences Research, the Chief
14 Social Work Officer of the Veterans’ Adminis-
15 tration, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for
16 Health Affairs, the Associate Director of Pre-
17 vention Research at the National Institute of
18 Mental Health, the Director of the Centers for
19 Disease Control and Prevention, the Director of
20 the Division of Epidemiology and Services Re-
21 search, the Assistant Secretary of Health and
22 Human Services for the Administration for
23 Children and Families, the Assistant Secretary
24 of Education for the Office of Educational Re-
25 search and Improvement, the Assistant Sec-

1 retary of Housing and Urban Development for
2 Community Planning and Development, and the
3 Assistant Attorney General for Office of Justice
4 Programs (or the designees of such officers);
5 and

6 “(B) such additional officers or employees
7 of the United States as the Secretary deter-
8 mines necessary for the advisory council to ef-
9 fectively carry out its functions.

10 “(3) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—The Secretary
11 shall appoint not to exceed 18 individuals to the ad-
12 visory council, of which—

13 “(A) not more than two-thirds of such in-
14 dividual shall be appointed from among the
15 leading representatives of the health and sci-
16 entific disciplines (including public health and
17 the behavioral or social sciences) relevant to the
18 activities of the Center, and at least 7 such in-
19 dividuals shall be professional social workers
20 who are recognized experts in the area of clin-
21 ical practice, education, policy, or research; and

22 “(B) not more than one-third of such indi-
23 viduals shall be appointed from the general
24 public and shall include leaders in fields of pub-

1 lic policy, law, health policy, economics, and
2 management.

3 The Secretary shall make appointments to the advi-
4 sory council in such a manner as to ensure that the
5 terms of the members do not all expire in the same
6 year.

7 “(4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the advi-
8 sory council who are officers or employees of the
9 United States shall not receive any compensation for
10 service on the advisory council. The remaining mem-
11 bers shall receive, for each day (including travel
12 time) they are engaged in the performance of the
13 functions of the advisory council, compensation at
14 rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual
15 rate in effect for an individual at grade GS–18 of
16 the General Schedule.

17 “(c) TERMS.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of an in-
19 dividual appointed to the advisory council under sub-
20 section (b)(3) shall be 4 years, except that any indi-
21 vidual appointed to fill a vacancy on the advisory
22 council shall serve for the remainder of the unex-
23 pired term. A member may serve after the expiration
24 of the member’s term until a successor has been ap-
25 pointed.

1 “(2) REAPPOINTMENTS.—A member of the ad-
2 visory council who has been appointed under sub-
3 section (b)(3) for a term of 4 years may not be re-
4 appointed to the advisory council prior to the expira-
5 tion of the 2-year period beginning on the date on
6 which the prior term expired.

7 “(3) VACANCY.—If a vacancy occurs on the ad-
8 visory council among the members under subsection
9 (b)(3), the Secretary shall make an appointment to
10 fill that vacancy not later than 90 days after the
11 date on which the vacancy occurs.

12 “(d) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the advi-
13 sory council shall be selected by the Secretary from among
14 the members appointed under subsection (b)(3), except
15 that the Secretary may select the Director of the Center
16 to be the chairperson of the advisory council. The term
17 of office of the chairperson shall be 2 years.

18 “(e) MEETINGS.—The advisory council shall meet at
19 the call of the chairperson or upon the request of the Di-
20 rector of the Center, but not less than 3 times each fiscal
21 year. The location of the meetings of the advisory council
22 shall be subject to the approval of the Director of the Cen-
23 ter.

24 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—The Director of
25 the Center shall designate a member of the staff of the

1 Center to serve as the executive secretary of the advisory
2 council. The Director of the Center shall make available
3 to the advisory council such staff, information, and other
4 assistance as the council may require to carry out its func-
5 tions. The Director of the Center shall provide orientation
6 and training for new members of the advisory council to
7 provide such members with such information and training
8 as may be appropriate for their effective participation in
9 the functions of the advisory council.

10 “(g) COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The ad-
11 visory council may prepare, for inclusion in the biennial
12 report under section 485M—

13 “(1) comments with respect to the activities of
14 the advisory council in the fiscal years for which the
15 report is prepared;

16 “(2) comments on the progress of the Center in
17 meeting its objectives; and

18 “(3) recommendations with respect to the fu-
19 ture direction and program and policy emphasis of
20 the center.

21 The advisory council may prepare such additional reports
22 as it may determine appropriate.

23 **“SEC. 485M. BIENNIAL REPORT.**

24 “The Director of the Center, after consultation with
25 the advisory council for the Center, shall prepare for inclu-

1 sion in the biennial report under section 403, a biennial
2 report that shall consist of a description of the activities
3 of the Center and program policies of the Director of the
4 Center in the fiscal years for which the report is prepared.
5 The Director of the Center may prepare such additional
6 reports as the Director determines appropriate. The Di-
7 rector of the Center shall provide the advisory council of
8 the Center an opportunity for the submission of the writ-
9 ten comments described in section 485L(g).

10 **“SEC. 485N. QUARTERLY REPORT.**

11 “The Director of the Center shall prepare a quarterly
12 report to Congress with a summary of findings and policy
13 implications from research conducted or supported
14 through the Center.

15 **“SEC. 485O. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

16 “For the purpose of carrying out this subpart, there
17 is authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of
18 the fiscal years 2003 through 2007.”.

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