

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1729

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

DECEMBER 12, 2001

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

AN ACT

To provide assistance with respect to the mental health needs of individuals affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

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 “Post Terrorism Mental
5 Health Improvement Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PLANNING AND TRAINING GRANTS.**

2 Section 520A of the Public Health Service Act (42
3 U.S.C. 290bb-32) is amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)—

5 (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting before
6 the semicolon the following: “, including the
7 training of mental health professionals with re-
8 spect to evidence-based practices in the treat-
9 ment of individuals who are victims of a dis-
10 aster”;

11 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at
12 the end;

13 (C) in paragraph (4), by striking the pe-
14 riod and inserting a semicolon; and

15 (D) by inserting after paragraph (4), the
16 following:

17 “(5) the development of coordinated response
18 plans for responding to the mental health needs (in-
19 cluding the response efforts of private organizations)
20 that arise from a disaster, including the development
21 and expansion of the 2-1-1 or other universal hotline
22 as appropriate; and

23 “(6) the establishment of a mental health dis-
24 aster response clearinghouse.”;

25 (2) by redesignating subsection (f) as sub-
26 section (h); and

1 (3) by inserting after subsection (e) the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(f) STATE COMMENTS.—With respect to a State or
4 local public entity that submits an application for assist-
5 ance under this section and that intends to use such as-
6 sistance as provided for in subsection (a)(5), such entity
7 shall provide notice of such application to the chief execu-
8 tive officer of the State, the State mental health depart-
9 ment, and the State office responsible for emergency pre-
10 paredness who shall consult with providers and organiza-
11 tions serving public safety officials and others involved in
12 responding to the crisis, and provide such officer, depart-
13 ment and office with the opportunity to comment on such
14 application.

15 “(g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of subsection
16 (a)(2), the term ‘mental health professional’ includes psy-
17 chiatrists, psychologists, clinical psychiatric nurse special-
18 ists, mental health counselors, marriage and family thera-
19 pists, clinical social workers, pastoral counselors, school
20 psychologists, licensed professional counselors, school
21 guidance counselors, and any other individual practicing
22 in a mental health profession that is licensed or regulated
23 by a State agency.”.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO DIRECTLY AFFECTED AREAS TO AD-**
2 **DRESS LONG-TERM NEEDS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
4 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-
5 retary”) shall award grants to eligible State and local gov-
6 ernments and other public entities to enable such entities
7 to respond to the long-term mental health needs arising
8 from the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

9 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant
10 under subsection (a) an entity shall—

11 (1) be a State or local government or other
12 public entity that is located in an area that is di-
13 rectly affected (as determined by the Secretary) by
14 the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001; and

15 (2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an ap-
16 plication at such time, in such manner, and con-
17 taining such information as the Secretary may re-
18 quire.

19 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A grantee shall use amounts
20 received under a grant under subsection (a)—

21 (1) to carry out activities to locate individuals
22 who may be affected by the terrorist attacks of Sep-
23 tember 11, 2001 and in need of mental health serv-
24 ices;

25 (2) to provide treatment for those individuals
26 identified under paragraph (1) who are suffering

1 from a serious psychiatric illness as a result of such
2 terrorist attack, including paying the costs of nec-
3 essary medications; and

4 (3) to carry out other activities determined ap-
5 propriate by the Secretary.

6 (d) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts ex-
7 pended for treatments under subsection (c)(2) shall be
8 used to supplement and not supplant amounts otherwise
9 made available for such treatments (including medica-
10 tions) under any other Federal, State, or local program
11 or under any health insurance coverage.

12 (e) USE OF PRIVATE ENTITIES AND EXISTING PRO-
13 VIDERS.—To the extent appropriate, a grantee under sub-
14 section (a) shall—

15 (1) enter into contracts with private, nonprofit
16 entities to carry out activities under the grant; and

17 (2) to the extent feasible, utilize providers that
18 are already serving the affected population, includ-
19 ing providers used by public safety officials.

20 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
21 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 such sums as may be necessary in each of fiscal years
23 2002 through 2005.

1 **SEC. 4. RESEARCH.**

2 Part A of title II of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 202 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 229. RESEARCH.**

6 “Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Sec-
7 retary may waive any restriction on the amount of supple-
8 mental funding that may be provided to any disaster-re-
9 lated scientific research project that is funded by the Sec-
10 retary.”.

11 **SEC. 5. CHILDREN WHO EXPERIENCE VIOLENCE-RELATED**
12 **STRESS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 582(f) of the Public
14 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh-1(f)) is amended by
15 striking “2002 and 2003” and inserting “2002 through
16 2005”.

17 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
18 gress that the program established under section 582 of
19 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh-1) should
20 be fully funded.

Passed the Senate December 12, 2001.

Attest:

JERI THOMSON,

Secretary.