

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2202

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to increase professional and public awareness of the link between periodontal disease in pregnant women and pre-term, low-birth weight babies and the maternal transmission of caries.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2002

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Mr. BINGAMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to increase professional and public awareness of the link between periodontal disease in pregnant women and pre-term, low-birth weight babies and the maternal transmission of caries.

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 “Perinatal Dental
5 Health Improvement Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Emerging evidence may link severe peri-
2 odontal disease in pregnant women to a sevenfold in-
3 crease in the risk of delivering pre-term low birth
4 weight babies.

5 (2) The National Institutes of Health reports
6 that “as many as 18 percent of the 250,000 pre-
7 mature low-weight infants born in the United States
8 each year may be attributable to infectious oral dis-
9 ease.”.

10 (3) Recent scientific studies suggest that the se-
11 vere consequences of premature delivery and associ-
12 ated low birth weight may be partially preventable
13 through improved oral health of pregnant women.

14 (4) Additionally, extensive laboratory, clinical
15 and epidemiologic studies show that a mother’s expe-
16 rience with tooth decay determines their young chil-
17 dren’s risk of developing cavities.

18 (5) Dental caries (tooth decay) is now under-
19 stood to be an infectious and transmissible disease
20 acquired by children primarily from their mothers.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AND DEM-**
 2 **ONSTRATION PROJECTS THAT APPLY NEW**
 3 **SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ABOUT MATERNAL**
 4 **AND CHILD ORAL HEALTH LINKAGES.**

5 Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act
 6 (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by inserting after sec-
 7 tion 317M the following:

8 **“SEC. 317M-1. GRANTS TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AND DEM-**
 9 **ONSTRATION PROJECTS THAT APPLY NEW**
 10 **SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE ABOUT MATERNAL**
 11 **AND CHILD ORAL HEALTH LINKAGES.**

12 “(a) **AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.**—The Sec-
 13 retary, acting through the Director of the Maternal and
 14 Child Health Bureau, shall award grants to nonprofit or-
 15 ganizations and accredited dental education and research
 16 institutions to conduct research and demonstration
 17 projects that apply new scientific evidence about maternal
 18 and child oral health linkages related to adverse pregnancy
 19 outcomes and maternal transmission of dental caries.

20 “(b) **REQUIREMENT FOR NONPROFIT ORGANIZA-**
 21 **TIONS AND ACCREDITED DENTAL EDUCATION AND RE-**
 22 **SEARCH INSTITUTIONS.**—In order to be eligible for a
 23 grant under this section, a nonprofit organization or ac-
 24 credited dental education and research institution shall
 25 provide the Secretary with an assurance that it is a non-

1 profit organization or an accredited dental education and
2 research institution.

3 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds provided under this
5 section may be used to provide direct funding to
6 support projects in the following areas:

7 “(A) PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION.—

8 Projects that are designed to develop programs
9 based on the most recent research available as
10 of the date of the conduct of the project with
11 respect to maternal and child health to inform
12 dentists, pediatricians, family physicians, obstre-
13 tricians, nurse practitioners, and other primary
14 care providers so they can educate women of
15 childbearing age on the possible maternal-child
16 health consequences of poor oral health.

17 “(B) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—Projects that
18 are designed to develop programs based on the
19 most recent research available as of the date of
20 the conduct of the project with respect to ma-
21 ternal and child health to raise the public’s
22 awareness on possible maternal and child health
23 consequences of poor oral health and improve
24 the oral health practices of women of child-
25 bearing age.

1 “(2) LIMITATION.—Funds provided under a
2 grant awarded under this section may not be used
3 for payment of direct dental, medical, or other serv-
4 ices or to obtain Federal matching funds under any
5 Federal program.

6 “(d) APPLICATION.—A nonprofit organization or an
7 accredited dental education and research institution desir-
8 ing a grant under this section shall submit an application
9 to the Secretary in such form and manner and containing
10 such information as the Secretary may require.

11 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 are authorized to be appropriated to make grants under
13 this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2003,
14 2004 and 2005.”.

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