

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2559

To expand research for women in trauma.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23, 2002

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-
cation, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To expand research for women in trauma.

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 “Expanding Research
5 for Women in Trauma Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Most studies of violence against women cur-
9 rently focus on physical abuse or rape, primarily be-
10 cause they are easier to identify and measure and
11 are potentially lethal, however, almost all battered

1 women describe psychological abuse as the most
2 harmful.

3 (2) Much of the research on violence against
4 women has not focused on nontraditional popu-
5 lations, although available data shows that incarcer-
6 ated women, women living in poverty, women belong-
7 ing to minority ethnic and language groups, older
8 women, and women with mental and physical dis-
9 abilities report especially high rates of victimization.

10 (3) Victims of violence are at increased risk for
11 a number of physical and mental health problems,
12 for example, in primary care practice, women who
13 have been raped report more symptoms of illness
14 and more negative health behaviors than nonvictim-
15 ized women.

16 (4) Effective methods for screening to identify
17 women affected by violence are prerequisite to un-
18 derstanding the outcomes of abuse-sensitive medical
19 care, for example, the effect of medical attention to
20 violence on perceived health utilization of health
21 services over time, and patient satisfaction.

22 (5) Violence against women occurs in a
23 sociocultural context. More research should be con-
24 ducted to identify sociocultural factors that promote
25 and maintain violence against women and to learn

1 how sociocultural factors, such as gender roles and
2 poverty, mediate the effects of interpersonal victim-
3 ization.

4 (6) There are a number of community-based
5 and legal system interventions available to victims of
6 interpersonal violence. However, there is little eval-
7 uation research on the effectiveness of these inter-
8 ventions, especially for various subpopulations of
9 women. More research needs to be conducted on the
10 effectiveness of legal and community-based interven-
11 tions, not only those with the goal of changing the
12 behavior of assailants but also those with the goal of
13 helping women take safety-promoting actions.

14 (7) Much of the research on violence against
15 women examines continuing rates of physical or psy-
16 chological abuse as outcome measures and measures
17 the behavior of the perpetrators, not something over
18 which the woman has direct and immediate control.
19 However, research on the women's attempts to man-
20 age and end the violence in their lives is rare.

21 (8) Much of the extant research has focused on
22 violence against women in the streets (sexual as-
23 sault) or in their homes (domestic violence, bat-
24 tering, or marital rape). However, consistent focus

1 on violence against women in work-related and edu-
2 cational contexts has been more limited.

3 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH INITIATIVES.**

4 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 **“SEC. 3990. VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESEARCH INITIA-**
8 **TIVES.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
10 with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and
11 Prevention, the Director of the National Institute of Men-
12 tal Health, the Director of the Office of Research on Wom-
13 en’s Health, the Director of the Office of Women’s Health,
14 the Director of the National Institute of Drug Abuse, and
15 the Director of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse
16 and Alcoholism, shall make grants and enter into con-
17 tracts to—

18 “(1) increase research on the psychological
19 sequelae of violence against women;

20 “(2) expand research on special populations and
21 their risk for violence, including adolescents, older
22 women, ethnic minorities, women with disabilities,
23 and other affected populations;

1 “(3) increase research on violence against
2 women as a risk factor for various mental and phys-
3 ical health problems;

4 “(4) develop and test effective methods of
5 screening for violence in all points of entry to the
6 health care system, including mental health, emer-
7 gency medicine, and primary care;

8 “(5) expand and enhance research on
9 sociocultural correlates of violence, such as the fac-
10 tors that create the predisposition toward violent be-
11 havior, situational variables that trigger the expres-
12 sion of violence, and social processes that allow vio-
13 lence to continue without negative consequences to
14 the perpetrator;

15 “(6) develop systematic and quantifiable meas-
16 ures to evaluate treatment programs and prevention
17 strategies for victims and perpetrators of violence;

18 “(7) conduct research to increase better under-
19 standing of the complex process victimized women go
20 through in attempting to manage and end the vio-
21 lence in their lives and focus on resilience and cop-
22 ing mechanisms; and

23 “(8) develop standardized questions concerning
24 rape, battering, and sexual harassment in work-re-
25 lated and educational contexts to be routinely in-

1 cluded in governmentally sponsored national surveys
2 in order to obtain a fuller and more accurate assess-
3 ment of the nature, prevalence, and effect of mul-
4 tiple forms of violence against women in these set-
5 tings.

6 “(b) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall not
7 award a grant under this section in an amount which ex-
8 ceeds \$500,000.

9 “(c) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award grants
10 under this section for a period not to exceed 5 years.

11 “(d) APPLICATION.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desir-
13 ing a grant under this section shall submit an appli-
14 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such man-
15 ner, and accompanied by such information as the
16 Secretary may reasonably require.

17 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
18 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

19 “(A) describe the activities for which as-
20 sistance under this section is sought; and

21 “(B) provide such additional assurances as
22 the Secretary determines to be essential to en-
23 sure compliance with the requirements of this
24 section.

1 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 are authorized to be appropriated \$50,000,000 for fiscal
3 year 2003 and such sums as may be necessary for each
4 of the fiscal years 2004, 2005, and 2006 to carry out the
5 provisions of this section.”.

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