

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2616

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish an Office of Men's Health.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 12, 2002

Mr. THURMOND 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 establish an Office of Men's Health.

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 “Men's Health Act of
5 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) A silent health crisis is affecting the health
9 and well-being of America's men.

1 (2) While this health crisis is of particular con-
2 cern to men, it is also a concern for women regard-
3 ing their fathers, husbands, sons, and brothers.

4 (3) Men's health is a concern for employers who
5 pay the costs of medical care, and lose productive
6 employees.

7 (4) Men's health is a concern to Federal and
8 State governments which absorb the enormous costs
9 of premature death and disability, including the
10 costs of caring for dependents left behind.

11 (5) The life expectancy gap between men and
12 women has increased from one year in 1920 to al-
13 most six years in 1998.

14 (6) Prostate cancer is the most frequently diag-
15 nosed cancer in the United States among men, ac-
16 counting for 36 percent of all cancer cases.

17 (7) An estimated 180,000 men will be newly di-
18 agnosed with prostate cancer this year alone, and
19 37,000 will die.

20 (8) The American Heart Association reports
21 that heart attack is the single biggest killer of Amer-
22 ican males. Men are more likely to die of stroke and
23 are almost twice as likely to die of heart disease
24 than are women. High blood pressure increases the
25 risk for stroke and heart attack and men under age

1 55 are much more likely to suffer from high blood
2 pressure than are women.

3 (9) An estimated 7,600 men will be diagnosed
4 this year with testicular cancer, and 400 of these
5 men will die of this disease in 2002. A common rea-
6 son for delay in treatment of this disease is a delay
7 in seeking medical attention after discovering a tes-
8 ticular mass.

9 (10) Studies show that men are at least 25 per-
10 cent less likely than women to visit a doctor, and are
11 significantly less likely to have regular physician
12 check-ups and obtain preventive screening tests for
13 serious diseases.

14 (11) Appropriate use of tests such as prostate
15 specific antigen (PSA) exams and blood pressure,
16 blood sugar, and cholesterol screens, in conjunction
17 with clinical exams and self-testing, can result in the
18 early detection of many problems and in increased
19 survival rates.

20 (12) Educating men, their families, and health
21 care providers about the importance of early detec-
22 tion of male health problems can result in reducing
23 rates of mortality for male-specific diseases, as well
24 as improve the health of America's men and its over-
25 all economic well-being.

1 (13) Recent scientific studies have shown that
 2 regular medical exams, preventive screenings, reg-
 3 ular exercise, and healthy eating habits can help
 4 save lives.

5 (14) Establishing an Office of Men’s Health is
 6 needed to investigate these findings and take such
 7 further actions as may be needed to promote men’s
 8 health.

9 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE OF MEN’S HEALTH.**

10 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title XVII of the Public Health
 11 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by adding
 12 at the end the following:

13 “OFFICE OF MEN’S HEALTH

14 “SEC. 1711. The Secretary shall establish within the
 15 Department of Health and Human Services an office to
 16 be known as the Office of Men’s Health, which shall be
 17 headed by a director appointed by the Secretary. The Sec-
 18 retary, acting through the Director of the Office, shall co-
 19 ordinate and promote the status of men’s health in the
 20 United States.”.

21 (b) REPORT.—Not later than two years after the date
 22 of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and
 23 Human Services, acting through the Director of the Office
 24 of Men’s Health (established under section 1711 of the
 25 Public Health Service Act as added by subsection (a)),
 26 shall submit to Congress a report describing the activities

1 of such Office, including findings that the Director has
2 made regarding men's health.

○