

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3359

To increase awareness of and research on autoimmune diseases, such as lupus, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and fibromyalgia, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 21, 2003

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

A BILL

To increase awareness of and research on autoimmune diseases, such as lupus, multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and fibromyalgia, and for other purposes.

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 “Prevention, Awareness,
5 and Research Auto-Immune Disease Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The Lupus Foundation of America esti-
9 mates that at least 1.5 million Americans have a

1 form of lupus, 9 out of 10 of these Americans are
2 women, and 80 percent of all newly diagnosed cases
3 of lupus are among women of childbearing age.

4 (2) According to a Lupus Foundation of Amer-
5 ica survey, more than half of the people with lupus
6 suffered for 4 or more years and visited 3 or more
7 doctors before obtaining a diagnosis of lupus.

8 (3) Early diagnosis of and commencement of
9 treatment for lupus can prevent or reduce serious
10 organ damage, disability, and death.

11 (4) About 1 out of 5 lupus sufferers receives
12 disability payments, costing the Government several
13 billion dollars each year for social security disability
14 benefits, lost taxes, and medical care provided
15 through Medicare and Medicaid.

16 (5) The average annual cost of medical treat-
17 ment for an individual with lupus is \$6,000 to
18 \$10,000; for some people, medical costs may exceed
19 several thousand dollars every month.

20 (6) Despite the prevalence of lupus, public
21 awareness and understanding of lupus remains low.
22 According to a Lupus Foundation of America sur-
23 vey, only 1 out of 5 Americans can provide even
24 basic information about lupus.

1 (7) Awareness of lupus is lowest among adults
2 ages 18 to 34, the age group most likely to develop
3 symptoms of lupus.

4 (8) Multiple sclerosis is a chronic and often dis-
5 abling disease of the central nervous system which
6 often first appears in people who are 20 to 50 years
7 of age, with lifelong physical and emotional effects.

8 (9) Multiple sclerosis is twice as common in
9 women as in men.

10 (10) An estimated 250,000 to 400,000 individ-
11 uals have multiple sclerosis nationally.

12 (11) The average annual cost of multiple sele-
13 rosis to each affected individual is approximately
14 \$50,000, and the total cost can exceed \$3,000,000
15 over an individual's lifetime.

16 (12) The annual cost of treating all people who
17 suffer from multiple sclerosis in the United States is
18 approximately \$20,000,000,000.

19 (13) Symptoms of multiple sclerosis can be mild
20 (such as numbness in the limbs) or severe (such as
21 paralysis or loss of vision).

22 (14) The progress, severity, and specific symp-
23 toms of multiple sclerosis in any one individual can-
24 not yet be predicted.

1 (15) Arthritis is the number one cause of dis-
2 ability in the United States.

3 (16) Among the 2,100,000 people with rheu-
4 matoid arthritis in the United States, women out-
5 number men 3 to 1.

6 (17) The total direct costs of rheumatoid ar-
7 thritis, including money spent on treatments, hos-
8 pitalizations, medications, transportation, and spe-
9 cialist aids, is approximately \$1,200,000,000 each
10 year.

11 (18) The average medical care expenditures
12 over the course of a rheumatoid arthritis patient's
13 lifetime is \$225,000 to \$370,000.

14 (19) Fibromyalgia is believed to affect approxi-
15 mately 3,700,000 people (approximately 2 percent of
16 the United States population) and occurs more com-
17 monly in women than men.

18 (20) The exact cause of fibromyalgia is un-
19 known, but may be triggered by stress, trauma, or
20 possibly an infectious agent in susceptible people.

21 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS OF AUTO-**
22 **IMMUNE DISEASES.**

23 (a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is to in-
24 crease awareness of autoimmune diseases, such as lupus,
25 multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and fibromyalgia,

1 in order to provide to the public a more complete under-
2 standing of these diseases, which affect 5 to 10 percent
3 of the people in the United States.

4 (b) AMENDMENTS.—Title III of the Public Health
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by moving section 317R so that such sec-
7 tion follows section 317Q; and

8 (2) by inserting after section 317R (as so
9 moved) the following:

10 “SEC. 317S. (a) GRANTS TO INCREASE AWARENESS
11 OF AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES.—The Secretary, acting
12 through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control
13 and Prevention, shall award grants to eligible entities to
14 conduct public and professional awareness activities re-
15 garding autoimmune diseases, such as lupus, multiple scle-
16 rosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and fibromyalgia.

17 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—In conducting public and pro-
18 fessional awareness activities with a grant under this sec-
19 tion, an eligible entity may do any of the following:

20 “(1) Promote increased awareness of early
21 intervention and treatment so as to significantly im-
22 prove the quality of life for people with autoimmune
23 diseases, such as lupus, multiple sclerosis, rheu-
24 matoid arthritis, and fibromyalgia.

1 “(2) Target minority communities that may be
 2 underserved or disproportionately affected by auto-
 3 immune diseases, such as lupus, multiple sclerosis,
 4 rheumatoid arthritis, and fibromyalgia.

5 “(3) Target women (who are disproportionately
 6 affected by autoimmune diseases, such as lupus,
 7 multiple sclerosis, rheumatoid arthritis, and
 8 fibromyalgia) so as to help reduce the amount of
 9 time taken for correct diagnosis of such diseases,
 10 which often takes more than 1 year.

11 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this sec-
 12 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a nonprofit organiza-
 13 tion, a consumer group, an institution of higher education
 14 (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act
 15 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), a Federal, State, or local gov-
 16 ernmental agency, or a media organization.

17 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 18 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 19 \$18,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 and 2005.”.

20 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR EDUCATION ON RELATIONSHIP BE-**
 21 **TWEEN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES AND MEN-**
 22 **TAL ILLNESSES.**

23 Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 24 241 et seq.), as amended by section 3 of this Act, is
 25 amended by inserting after section 317S the following:

1 “SEC. 317T. (a) GRANTS FOR EDUCATION ON RELA-
 2 TIONSHIP BETWEEN AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES AND MEN-
 3 TAL ILLNESSES.—The Secretary, acting through the Ad-
 4 ministrator of the Health Resources and Services Admin-
 5 istration, shall award grants to eligible entities for the
 6 education of health care providers on potential links be-
 7 tween autoimmune diseases, such as lupus, multiple scler-
 8 osis, rheumatoid arthritis, and fibromyalgia, and cog-
 9 nitive and mood disorders, such as depression.

10 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this sec-
 11 tion, the term ‘eligible entity’ means a nonprofit organiza-
 12 tion, a consumer group, an institution of higher education
 13 (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Education Act
 14 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), a Federal, State, or local gov-
 15 ernmental agency, or a media organization.

16 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
 17 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 18 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2004 and 2005.”.

19 **SEC. 5. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM REGARDING PHYSI-**
 20 **CIAN RESEARCH ON AUTOIMMUNE DISEASES.**

21 Title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 22 281 et seq.) is amended—

23 (1) by redesignating the second section 487F as
 24 section 487G; and

1 (2) by inserting after section 487G (as so re-
2 designated) the following:

3 **“SEC. 487H. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM REGARDING PHY-**
4 **SICIAN RESEARCH ON AUTOIMMUNE DIS-**
5 **EASES.**

6 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—To the extent and in the
7 amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts, the
8 Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health
9 Resources and Services Administration, shall establish a
10 program to enter into contracts with qualified physicians
11 under which such qualified physicians agree to conduct re-
12 search for a period of at least 3 years regarding auto-
13 immune diseases, such as lupus, multiple sclerosis, rheu-
14 matoid arthritis, and fibromyalgia, in consideration of the
15 Federal Government agreeing to repay, for each year of
16 service conducting such research, not more than \$35,000
17 of the principal and interest of the educational loans of
18 such qualified physicians.

19 “(b) APPLICATION OF PROVISIONS.—Except as in-
20 consistent with this section, the provisions of sections
21 338B, 338C, and 338E shall apply to the program estab-
22 lished under this section to the same extent and in the
23 same manner as such provisions apply to the National
24 Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program estab-
25 lished in subpart III of part D of title III.

1 “(c) QUALIFIED PHYSICIAN.—For purposes of this
2 section, the term ‘qualified physician’ means any indi-
3 vidual who has received, or will have received by the time
4 of the research to be conducted under this section, a de-
5 gree of doctor of medicine or its equivalent and is licensed
6 to practice medicine in the United States.

7 “(d) FUNDING.—

8 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
9 For the purpose of carrying out this section, there
10 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may
11 be necessary for each fiscal year.

12 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated for
13 carrying out this section shall remain available until
14 the expiration of the second fiscal year beginning
15 after the fiscal year for which the amounts were
16 made available.”.

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