

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3803

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide information and outreach for the prevention of osteoporosis.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2004

Ms. BERKLEY (for herself and Mr. BURGESS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to provide information and outreach for the prevention of osteoporosis.

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 “Osteoporosis Edu-  
5 cation and Prevention Act of 2004”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Osteoporosis is a major public health prob-  
2       lem affecting 44,000,000 Americans: 10,000,000  
3       who already have the disease and 34,000,000 more  
4       who have low bone mass placing them at risk for  
5       fractures.

6           (2) Although there is currently no cure for  
7       osteoporosis, it is preventable in most cases if proper  
8       steps are taken to preserve bone mass as an indi-  
9       vidual ages.

10          (3) Osteoporosis is a silent disease that often is  
11       not discovered until a fracture occurs. One out of  
12       two women and one out of four men over age 50 will  
13       have an osteoporosis-related fracture in their life-  
14       times.

15          (4) While both men and women may develop  
16       osteoporosis, 80 percent of the individuals who de-  
17       velop the disease are women. Most adult women are  
18       not aware of their personal risk factors for  
19       osteoporosis. A woman's risk hip fracture is equal to  
20       her combined risk of breast, uterine, and ovarian  
21       cancer.

22          (5) Osteoporosis is responsible for more than  
23       1,500,000 fractures annually, including over  
24       300,000 hip fractures, approximately 700,000

1 vertebral fractures, 250,000 wrist fractures, and  
2 300,000 other fractures.

3 (6) The estimated nationwide medical costs di-  
4 rectly attributable to osteoporosis-related treatment  
5 was \$17,000,000,000 in 2001—\$47,000,000 each  
6 day—and the cost is rising. Much of this cost might  
7 be avoidable with proper education about prevention,  
8 diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis.

9 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGN.**

10 The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall  
11 carry out a national campaign to increase awareness and  
12 knowledge with respect to osteoporosis. As part of such  
13 campaign, the Secretary shall provide public service an-  
14 nouncements, in accordance with applicable law and regu-  
15 lations, by developing and placing in telecommunications  
16 media announcements intended to encourage at-risk popu-  
17 lations to discuss their risks of osteoporosis with their phy-  
18 sicians, and to call attention to early warning signs and  
19 risks factors based on the best available medical informa-  
20 tion.

21 **SEC. 4. AMENDMENT.**

22 Section 202 of the Older Americans Act of 1995 (42  
23 U.S.C. 3012) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
24 lowing:

1       “(g)(1) The Assistant Secretary shall carry out an  
2 osteoporosis prevention demonstration program by making  
3 grants to public and private nonprofit agencies, organiza-  
4 tions, and institutions for purposes of—

5               “(A) determining the best practices for pro-  
6 viding information and outreach services (including  
7 programs and information, such as forums, semi-  
8 nars, and large-print, easy-to-understand, multi-  
9 lingual literature) relating to prevention, diagnosis,  
10 and treatment of osteoporosis; and

11              “(B) measuring the effectiveness of such pro-  
12 gram over a 3-year-period, as shown by an increase  
13 in the percentages of individuals who have dem-  
14 onstrated expanded awareness and knowledge of  
15 osteoporosis (including knowledge of personal risk  
16 factors).

17       “(2) In carrying out such program, the Assistant Sec-  
18 retary shall collaborate with the leading nonprofit health  
19 organization, as well as other health entities, with a mis-  
20 sion both to promote lifelong bone health nationwide and  
21 to provide outreach to State and local governments and  
22 communities, for the purpose of determining the best prac-  
23 tices for providing bone-health information and outreach  
24 services to at-risk populations.

1       “(3) The Assistant Secretary shall include in the an-  
2 nual report required by section 207(a) to be submitted by  
3 the Assistant Secretary, a description of the program car-  
4 ried out under paragraph (1) and of the collaboration pro-  
5 vided under paragraph (2).”.

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