

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 3887

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment  
of a National Center for Social Work Research.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 3, 2004

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (for himself, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. FROST, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. NORTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for  
the establishment of a National Center for Social Work  
Research.

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 “National Center for  
5       Social Work Research Act of 2004”.

6       **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7       The Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) Social workers focus on the improvement of  
2           individual and family functioning and the creation of  
3           effective health and mental health prevention and  
4           treatment interventions in order for individuals to  
5           become more productive members of society.

6           (2) Social workers provide front line prevention  
7           and treatment services in the areas of school vio-  
8           lence, aging, teen pregnancy, child abuse, domestic  
9           violence, juvenile crime, and substance abuse, par-  
10          ticularly in rural and underserved communities.

11          (3) Social workers are in a unique position to  
12          provide valuable research information on these com-  
13          plex social concerns, taking into account a wide  
14          range of social, medical, economic, and community  
15          influences from an interdisciplinary, family-centered,  
16          and community-based approach.

17   **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CENTER FOR SO-**  
18                           **CIAL WORK RESEARCH.**

19          Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
20   241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
21   lowing:

1 **“PART R—NATIONAL CENTER FOR SOCIAL WORK**  
2 **RESEARCH**

3 **“SEC. 399AA. ESTABLISHMENT.**

4 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
5 lish the National Center for Social Work Research (in this  
6 part referred to as the ‘Center’) for the purpose of con-  
7 ducting, supporting, and disseminating targeted research  
8 on social work methods and outcomes related to problems  
9 of significant social concern.

10 “(b) DIRECTOR.—The Secretary shall appoint the  
11 Director of the Center.

12 **“SEC. 399BB. SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purpose de-  
14 scribed in section 399AA(a), the Director of the Center—

15 “(1) shall promote research and training de-  
16 signed to inform social work practice, thus increas-  
17 ing the knowledge base and promoting a healthier  
18 America;

19 “(2) shall provide policymakers with empiri-  
20 cally-based research information to enable them to  
21 better understand complex social issues and make  
22 informed funding decisions about service effective-  
23 ness and cost efficiency; and

24 “(3) may establish in the Center and other non-  
25 profit institutions, and make grants for, research  
26 traineeships and fellowships to address problems of

1 significant social concern, especially in underserved  
2 populations and underserved geographical areas,  
3 through the study and investigation of—

4 “(A) the prevention of disease;

5 “(B) health promotion;

6 “(C) the association of socioeconomic sta-  
7 tus, gender, ethnicity, age, and geographical lo-  
8 cation with health;

9 “(D) the social work care of individuals  
10 and families affected by acute and chronic ill-  
11 nesses, child abuse, neglect, or youth violence;  
12 and

13 “(E) child and family care.

14 “(b) STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES.—The Director of  
15 the Center may provide individuals receiving training, in-  
16 struction, traineeships, or fellowships under this section  
17 with such stipends and allowances (including amounts for  
18 travel and subsistence and dependency allowances) as the  
19 Director determines necessary.

20 **“SEC. 399CC. ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

21 “(a) DUTIES.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-  
23 lish an advisory council for the Center (in this part  
24 referred to as the ‘advisory council’) that shall ad-  
25 vise, assist, consult with, and make recommenda-

1        tions to the Secretary and the Director of the Center  
2        on matters related to the activities carried out by  
3        and through the Center and the policies with respect  
4        to such activities.

5            “(2) GIFTS.—The advisory council may rec-  
6        ommend to the Secretary the acceptance, in accord-  
7        ance with section 231, of conditional gifts for study,  
8        investigations, and research and for the acquisition  
9        of grounds or construction, equipment, or mainte-  
10       nance of facilities for the Center.

11           “(3) OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.—The  
12        advisory council—

13                “(A)(i) may make recommendations to the  
14        Director of the Center with respect to research  
15        to be conducted by the Center;

16                “(ii) may review applications for grants  
17        and cooperative agreements for research or  
18        training and recommend for approval applica-  
19        tions for projects that demonstrate the prob-  
20        ability of making valuable contributions to  
21        human knowledge; and

22                “(iii) may review any grant, contract, or  
23        cooperative agreement proposed to be made or  
24        entered into by the Center;

1 “(B) may collect, by correspondence or by  
2 personal investigation, information relating to  
3 studies that are being carried out in the United  
4 States or any other country and, with the ap-  
5 proval of the Director of the Center, make such  
6 information available through appropriate publi-  
7 cations; and

8 “(C) may appoint subcommittees and con-  
9 vene workshops and conferences.

10 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The voting members of the  
12 advisory council shall be the ex officio members de-  
13 scribed in paragraph (2) and not more than 18 indi-  
14 viduals appointed by the Secretary under paragraph  
15 (3).

16 “(2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The ex officio  
17 members of the advisory council shall consist of the  
18 following officers and employees (or their designees):

19 “(A) The Secretary of Health and Human  
20 Services, the Director of the Center, the Direc-  
21 tor of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
22 vention, the Director of the Institute of Edu-  
23 cation Sciences, the Assistant Attorney General  
24 for the Office of Justice Programs, the Director  
25 of the National Institutes of Health, the Asso-

1           ciate Director for Prevention of the National  
2           Institute of Mental Health, and the Associate  
3           Director for Prevention of the National Insti-  
4           tute on Drug Abuse.

5           “(B) An official of the Department of  
6           Health and Human Services with principal re-  
7           sponsibility for health programs relating to chil-  
8           dren and families, designated by the Secretary  
9           of Health and Human Services.

10          “(C) An official of the Department of De-  
11          fense with principal responsibility for health af-  
12          fairs, designated by the Secretary of Defense.

13          “(D) An official of the National Institute  
14          of Mental Health with principal responsibility  
15          for services research and clinical epidemiology,  
16          designated by the Director of the National In-  
17          stitute of Mental Health.

18          “(E) An official of the Department of  
19          Housing and Urban Development with principal  
20          responsibility for community planning and de-  
21          velopment, designated by the Secretary of  
22          Housing and Urban Development.

23          “(F) An official of the Veterans Health  
24          Administration with principal responsibility for  
25          social work programs, designated by the Under

1 Secretary for Health of the Veterans Health  
2 Administration.

3 “(G) Any other officer or employee of the  
4 United States who, at the request of the Sec-  
5 retary, agrees to serve on the advisory council.

6 “(3) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—The Secretary  
7 shall appoint not to exceed 18 individuals to the ad-  
8 visory council, of which—

9 “(A) not more than two-thirds of such 18  
10 individuals shall be appointed from among the  
11 leading representatives of the health and sci-  
12 entific disciplines (including public health and  
13 the behavioral or social sciences) relevant to the  
14 activities of the Center, of which at least 7 indi-  
15 viduals shall be professional social workers who  
16 are recognized experts in the area of clinical  
17 practice, education, policy, or research; and

18 “(B) not more than one-third of such 18  
19 individuals shall be appointed from the general  
20 public and shall include leaders in fields of pub-  
21 lic policy, law, health policy, economics, and  
22 management.

23 “(4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the advi-  
24 sory council who are officers or employees of the  
25 United States shall not receive any compensation for



1 service on the advisory council. The remaining mem-  
2 bers shall receive, for each day (including travel  
3 time) they are engaged in the performance of the  
4 functions of the advisory council, compensation at  
5 rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual  
6 rate in effect for an individual at grade GS-18 of  
7 the General Schedule.

8 “(c) TERMS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of an in-  
10 dividual appointed to the advisory council under sub-  
11 section (b)(3) shall be 4 years, except that any indi-  
12 vidual appointed to fill a vacancy on the advisory  
13 council shall serve for the remainder of the unex-  
14 pired term. A member may serve after the expiration  
15 of the member’s term until a successor has been ap-  
16 pointed.

17 “(2) REAPPOINTMENTS.—A member of the ad-  
18 visory council who has been appointed under sub-  
19 section (b)(3) for a term of 4 years may not be re-  
20 appointed to the advisory council prior to the expira-  
21 tion of the 2-year period beginning on the date on  
22 which the prior term expired.

23 “(3) VACANCY.—If a vacancy occurs on the ad-  
24 visory council among the members under subsection  
25 (b)(3), the Secretary shall make an appointment to

1 fill that vacancy not later than 90 days after the  
2 date on which the vacancy occurs.

3 “(4) EXPIRATION OF TERMS.—The Secretary  
4 shall make appointments to the advisory council in  
5 such a manner as to ensure that the terms of the  
6 members do not all expire in the same year.

7 “(d) CHAIRPERSON.—

8 “(1) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select  
9 the chairperson of the advisory council from among  
10 the members appointed under subsection (b)(3) and  
11 the Director of the Center.

12 “(2) TERM.—The term of office of the chair-  
13 person shall be 2 years, except that such term shall  
14 not apply if the chairperson is the Director of the  
15 Center.

16 “(e) MEETINGS.—The advisory council shall meet at  
17 the call of the chairperson or upon the request of the Di-  
18 rector of the Center, but not less than 3 times each fiscal  
19 year. The location of the meetings of the advisory council  
20 shall be subject to the approval of the Director of the Cen-  
21 ter.

22 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—The Director of  
23 the Center shall designate a member of the staff of the  
24 Center to serve as the executive secretary of the advisory  
25 council. The Director of the Center shall make available

1 to the advisory council such staff, information, and other  
2 assistance as the council may require to carry out its func-  
3 tions. The Director of the Center shall provide orientation  
4 and training for new members of the advisory council to  
5 provide such members with such information and training  
6 as may be appropriate for their effective participation in  
7 the functions of the advisory council.

8 “(g) COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The ad-  
9 visory council—

10 “(1) may prepare for inclusion in the biennial  
11 report under section 399DD—

12 “(A) comments with respect to the activi-  
13 ties of the advisory council in the fiscal years  
14 for which the report is prepared;

15 “(B) comments on the progress of the  
16 Center in meeting its objectives; and

17 “(C) recommendations with respect to the  
18 future direction and program and policy empha-  
19 sis of the Center; and

20 “(2) such additional reports as the advisory  
21 council determines to be appropriate.

22 **“SEC. 399DD. BIENNIAL REPORTS.**

23 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall transmit to  
24 the President and to the Congress a biennial report which  
25 shall be prepared by the Director of the Center, after con-

1 sultation with the advisory council, and which shall consist  
2 of—

3 “(1) a description of the activities of the Center  
4 and the program policies of the Director of the Cen-  
5 ter in the fiscal years for which the report is pre-  
6 pared; and

7 “(2) such additional information as the Direc-  
8 tor determines appropriate.

9 “(b) COMMENTS BY ADVISORY COUNCIL.—The Di-  
10 rector of the Center shall provide the advisory council an  
11 opportunity to submit written comments described in sec-  
12 tion 399CC(g).

13 **“SEC. 400. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

14 “For the purpose of carrying out this part, there is  
15 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-  
16 essary for each of the fiscal years 2005 through 2009.”.

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