

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4543

To provide for research on, and services for individuals with, post-abortion depression and psychosis.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2004

Mr. PITTS (for himself and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for research on, and services for individuals with, post-abortion depression and psychosis.

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 “Post-Abortion Depres-
5 sion Research and Care Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) About 3,000,000 women per year in the
9 United States have an unplanned or unwanted preg-

1 nancy, and approximately 1,186,000 of these preg-
2 nancies end in elective abortion.

3 (2) Abortion can have severe and long-term ef-
4 fects on the mental and emotional well-being of
5 women. Women often experience sadness and guilt
6 following abortions with no one to console them.
7 They may have difficulty in bonding with new ba-
8 bies, become overprotective parents or develop prob-
9 lems in their relationship with their spouses. Prob-
10 lems such as eating disorders, depression and suicide
11 attempts have also been traced to past abortions.

12 (3) The symptoms of post-abortion depression
13 include bouts of crying, guilt, intense grief or sad-
14 ness, emotional numbness, eating disorders, drug
15 and alcohol abuse, suicidal urges, anxiety and panic
16 attacks, anger/rage, sexual problems or promiscuity,
17 lowered self esteem, nightmares and sleep disturb-
18 ance, flashbacks, and difficulty with relationships.

19 (4) Women who aborted a first pregnancy are
20 four times more likely to report substance abuse
21 compared to those who suffered a natural loss of
22 their first pregnancy, and they are five times more
23 likely to report subsequent substance abuse than
24 women who carried to term.

1 (5) Greater thought suppression is associated
2 with experiencing more intrusive thoughts of the
3 abortion. Both suppression and intrusive thoughts,
4 in turn, are positively related to increases in psycho-
5 logical distress over time.

6 (6) Women who experience decision-making dif-
7 ficulties and may lack social support may experience
8 more negative emotional consequences to induced
9 abortion.

10 (7) Post-abortion depression often relates to the
11 lack of understanding in society and the medical
12 community of the complexity of post-abortion de-
13 pression, and economic pressures placed on hospitals
14 and providers are contributing factors.

15 (8) Social pressure to have an abortion can be
16 directly related to higher levels of immediate regret
17 and more mental undoing over subsequent years.

18 (9) Post-abortion depression is a treatable dis-
19 order if promptly diagnosed by a trained provider
20 and attended to with a personalized regimen of care
21 including social support, therapy, medication, and
22 when necessary hospitalization.

23 (10) While there have been many studies re-
24 garding the emotional aftermath of abortion, very

1 little research has been sponsored by the National
2 Institutes of Health.

3 **TITLE I—RESEARCH ON POST-**
4 **ABORTION DEPRESSION AND**
5 **PSYCHOSIS**

6 **SEC. 101. EXPANSION AND INTENSIFICATION OF ACTIVI-**
7 **TIES OF NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF MENTAL**
8 **HEALTH.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
10 Human Services, acting through the Director of NIH and
11 the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health
12 (in this section referred to as the “Institute”), shall ex-
13 pand and intensify research and related activities of the
14 Institute with respect to post-abortion depression and
15 post-abortion psychosis (in this section referred to as
16 “post-abortion conditions”).

17 (b) COORDINATION WITH OTHER INSTITUTES.—The
18 Director of the Institute shall coordinate the activities of
19 the Director under subsection (a) with similar activities
20 conducted by the other national research institutes and
21 agencies of the National Institutes of Health to the extent
22 that such Institutes and agencies have responsibilities that
23 are related to post-abortion conditions.

24 (c) PROGRAMS FOR POST-ABORTION CONDITIONS.—
25 In carrying out subsection (a), the Director of the Insti-

1 tute shall conduct or support research to expand the un-
2 derstanding of the causes of, and to find a cure for, post-
3 abortion conditions. Activities under such subsection shall
4 include conducting and supporting the following:

5 (1) Basic research concerning the etiology and
6 causes of the conditions.

7 (2) Epidemiological studies to address the fre-
8 quency and natural history of the conditions and the
9 differences among racial and ethnic groups with re-
10 spect to the conditions.

11 (3) The development of improved diagnostic
12 techniques.

13 (4) Clinical research for the development and
14 evaluation of new treatments, including new biologi-
15 cal agents.

16 (5) Information and education programs for
17 health care professionals and the public.

18 (d) LONGITUDINAL STUDY.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Institute
20 shall conduct a national longitudinal study to deter-
21 mine the incidence and prevalence of cases of post-
22 abortion conditions, and the symptoms, severity, and
23 duration of such cases, toward the goal of more fully
24 identifying the characteristics of such cases and de-
25 veloping diagnostic techniques.

1 (2) REPORT.—Beginning not later than 3 years
2 after the date of the enactment of this Act, and peri-
3 odically thereafter for the duration of the study
4 under paragraph (1), the Director of the Institute
5 shall prepare and submit to the Congress reports on
6 the findings of the study.

7 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
8 purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized
9 to be appropriated \$3,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
10 2005 through 2009.

11 **TITLE II—DELIVERY OF SERV-**
12 **ICES REGARDING POST-ABOR-**
13 **TION DEPRESSION AND PSY-**
14 **CHOSIS**

15 **SEC. 201. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM OF GRANTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
17 Human Services (in this title referred to as the “Sec-
18 retary”) shall in accordance with this title make grants
19 to provide for projects for the establishment, operation,
20 and coordination of effective and cost-efficient systems for
21 the delivery of essential services to individuals with post-
22 abortion depression or post-abortion psychosis (referred to
23 in this section as a “post-abortion condition) and their
24 families.

1 (b) RECIPIENTS OF GRANTS.—A grant under sub-
2 section (a) may be made to an entity only if the entity—

3 (1) is a public or nonprofit private entity, which
4 may include a State or local government; a public or
5 nonprofit private hospital, community-based organi-
6 zation, hospice, ambulatory care facility, community
7 health center, migrant health center, or homeless
8 health center; or other appropriate public or non-
9 profit private entity; and

10 (2) had experience in providing the services de-
11 scribed in subsection (a) before the date of the en-
12 actment of this Act.

13 (c) CERTAIN ACTIVITIES.—To the extent practicable
14 and appropriate, the Secretary shall ensure that projects
15 under subsection (a) provide services for the diagnosis and
16 management of post-abortion conditions. Activities that
17 the Secretary may authorize for such projects may also
18 include the following:

19 (1) Delivering or enhancing outpatient and
20 home-based health and support services, including
21 case management, screening and comprehensive
22 treatment services for individuals with or at risk for
23 post-abortion conditions; and delivering or enhancing
24 support services for their families.

1 (2) Delivering or enhancing inpatient care man-
2 agement services that ensure the well being of the
3 mother and family and the future development of
4 the infant.

5 (3) Improving the quality, availability, and or-
6 ganization of health care and support services (in-
7 cluding transportation services, attendant care,
8 homemaker services, day or respite care, and pro-
9 viding counseling on financial assistance and insur-
10 ance) for individuals with post-abortion conditions
11 and support services for their families.

12 (d) INTEGRATION WITH OTHER PROGRAMS.—To the
13 extent practicable and appropriate, the Secretary shall in-
14 tegrate the program under this title with other grant pro-
15 grams carried out by the Secretary, including the program
16 under section 330 of the Public Health Service Act.

17 (e) LIMITATION ON AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—A grant
18 under subsection (a) may not for any fiscal year be made
19 in an amount exceeding \$100,000.

20 **SEC. 202. CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.**

21 A grant may be made under section 201 only if the
22 applicant involved makes the following agreements:

23 (1) Not more than 5 percent of the grant will
24 be used for administration, accounting, reporting,
25 and program oversight functions.

1 (2) The grant will be used to supplement and
2 not supplant funds from other sources related to the
3 treatment of post-abortion conditions.

4 (3) The applicant will abide by any limitations
5 deemed appropriate by the Secretary on any charges
6 to individuals receiving services pursuant to the
7 grant. As deemed appropriate by the Secretary, such
8 limitations on charges may vary based on the finan-
9 cial circumstances of the individual receiving serv-
10 ices.

11 (4) The grant will not be expended to make
12 payment for services authorized under section
13 201(a) to the extent that payment has been made,
14 or can reasonably be expected to be made, with re-
15 spect to such services—

16 (A) under any State compensation pro-
17 gram, under an insurance policy, or under any
18 Federal or State health benefits program; or

19 (B) by an entity that provides health serv-
20 ices on a prepaid basis.

21 (5) The applicant will, at each site at which the
22 applicant provides services under section 201(a),
23 post a conspicuous notice informing individuals who
24 receive the services of any Federal policies that

1 apply to the applicant with respect to the imposition
2 of charges on such individuals.

3 **SEC. 203. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

4 The Secretary may provide technical assistance to as-
5 sist entities in complying with the requirements of this
6 title in order to make such entities eligible to receive
7 grants under section 201.

8 **SEC. 204. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

9 For the purpose of carrying out this title, there is
10 authorized to be appropriated \$300,000 for each of the
11 fiscal years 2005 through 2009.

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