

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1304

To improve the health of women through the establishment of Offices of Women's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 20, 2003

Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Ms. MIKULSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To improve the health of women through the establishment of Offices of Women's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

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 "Women's Health Office
5 Act of 2003".

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE ON WOM-**
2 **EN'S HEALTH.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Part A of title II of the Pub-
4 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 202 et seq.) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 229. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE ON**
7 **WOMEN'S HEALTH.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—The Secretary
9 shall establish within the Office of the Secretary, an Office
10 on Women's Health (referred to in this section as the ‘Of-
11 fice’). The Office shall be headed by a Deputy Assistant
12 Secretary for Women's Health.

13 “(b) DUTIES.—The Secretary, acting through the Of-
14 fice, with respect to the health concerns of women, shall—

15 “(1) establish short-range and long-range goals
16 and objectives within the Department of Health and
17 Human Services and, as relevant and appropriate,
18 coordinate with other appropriate offices on activi-
19 ties within the Department that relate to disease
20 prevention, health promotion, service delivery, re-
21 search, and public and health care professional edu-
22 cation, for issues of particular concern to women;

23 “(2) provide expert advice and consultation to
24 the Secretary concerning scientific, legal, ethical,
25 and policy issues relating to women's health;

1 “(3) monitor the Department of Health and
2 Human Services’ offices, agencies, and regional ac-
3 tivities regarding women’s health and stimulate ac-
4 tivities and facilitate coordination of such depart-
5 mental and agency offices on women’s health;

6 “(4) establish a Department of Health and
7 Human Services Coordinating Committee on Wom-
8 en’s Health, which shall be chaired by the Deputy
9 Assistant Secretary for Women’s Health and com-
10 posed of senior level representatives from each of the
11 agencies and offices of the Department of Health
12 and Human Services;

13 “(5) establish a National Women’s Health In-
14 formation Center to—

15 “(A) facilitate the exchange of information
16 regarding matters relating to health informa-
17 tion, health promotion, preventive health serv-
18 ices, research advances, and education in the
19 appropriate use of health care;

20 “(B) facilitate access to such information;

21 “(C) assist in the analysis of issues and
22 problems relating to the matters described in
23 this paragraph; and

24 “(D) provide technical assistance with re-
25 spect to the exchange of information (including

1 facilitating the development of materials for
2 such technical assistance);

3 “(6) coordinate efforts to promote women’s
4 health programs and policies with the private sector;
5 and

6 “(7) through publications and any other means
7 appropriate, provide for the exchange of information
8 between the Office and recipients of grants, con-
9 tracts, and agreements under subsection (c), and be-
10 tween the Office and health professionals and the
11 general public.

12 “(c) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS REGARDING DU-
13 TIES.—

14 “(1) AUTHORITY.—In carrying out subsection
15 (b), the Secretary may make grants to, and enter
16 into cooperative agreements, contracts, and inter-
17 agency agreements with, public and private entities,
18 agencies, and organizations.

19 “(2) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The
20 Secretary shall directly or through contracts with
21 public and private entities, agencies, and organiza-
22 tions, provide for evaluations of projects carried out
23 with financial assistance provided under paragraph
24 (1) and for the dissemination of information devel-
25 oped as a result of such projects.

1 “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than January 31, 2005,
2 and January 31 of each second year thereafter, the Sec-
3 retary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate com-
4 mittees of Congress a report describing the activities car-
5 ried out under this section during the period for which
6 the report is being prepared.

7 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
8 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
9 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
10 each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008.”.

11 (b) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—There are trans-
12 ferred to the Office on Women’s Health (established under
13 section 229 of the Public Health Service Act, as added
14 by this section), all functions exercised by the Office on
15 Women’s Health of the Public Health Service prior to the
16 date of enactment of this section, including all personnel
17 and compensation authority, all delegation and assign-
18 ment authority, and all remaining appropriations. All or-
19 ders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, agree-
20 ments, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, registra-
21 tions, privileges, and other administrative actions that—

22 (1) have been issued, made, granted, or allowed
23 to become effective by the President, any Federal
24 agency or official thereof, or by a court of competent

1 jurisdiction, in the performance of functions trans-
 2 ferred under this subsection; and

3 (2) are in effect at the time this section takes
 4 effect, or were final before the date of enactment of
 5 this section and are to become effective on or after
 6 such date;

7 shall continue in effect according to their terms until
 8 modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in
 9 accordance with law by the President, the Secretary, or
 10 other authorized official, a court of competent jurisdiction,
 11 or by operation of law.

12 **SEC. 3. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVEN-**
 13 **TION OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH.**

14 Part A of title III of the Public Health Service Act
 15 (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
 16 the following:

17 “CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION
 18 OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH

19 “SEC. 310A. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
 20 shall establish within the Office of the Director of the Cen-
 21 ters for Disease Control and Prevention, an office to be
 22 known as the Office of Women's Health (referred to in
 23 this section as the ‘Office’). The Office shall be headed
 24 by a director who shall be appointed by the Director of
 25 such Centers.

26 “(b) PURPOSE.—The Director of the Office shall—

1 “(1) report to the Director of the Centers for
2 Disease Control and Prevention on the current level
3 of the Centers’ activity regarding women’s health
4 conditions across, where appropriate, age, biological,
5 and sociocultural contexts, in all aspects of the Cen-
6 ters’ work, including prevention programs, public
7 and professional education, services, and treatment;

8 “(2) establish short-range and long-range goals
9 and objectives within the Centers for women’s health
10 and, as relevant and appropriate, coordinate with
11 other appropriate offices on activities within the
12 Centers that relate to prevention, research, edu-
13 cation and training, service delivery, and policy de-
14 velopment, for issues of particular concern to
15 women;

16 “(3) identify projects in women’s health that
17 should be conducted or supported by the Centers;

18 “(4) consult with health professionals, non-
19 governmental organizations, consumer organizations,
20 women’s health professionals, and other individuals
21 and groups, as appropriate, on the policy of the Cen-
22 ters with regard to women; and

23 “(5) serve as a member of the Department of
24 Health and Human Services Coordinating Com-

1 mittee on Women’s Health (established under sec-
2 tion 229(b)(4)).

3 “(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—

4 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out sub-
5 section (b), the Director of the Office shall establish
6 a committee to be known as the Coordinating Com-
7 mittee on Women’s Health (referred to in this sub-
8 section as the ‘Coordinating Committee’).

9 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Coordinating Com-
10 mittee shall be composed of the directors of the na-
11 tional centers and other appropriate officials of the
12 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

13 “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Director of the Of-
14 fice shall serve as the Chairperson of the Coordi-
15 nating Committee.

16 “(4) DUTIES.—With respect to women’s health,
17 the Coordinating Committee shall assist the Director
18 of the Office in—

19 “(A) identifying the need for programs and
20 activities that focus on women’s health;

21 “(B) identifying needs regarding the co-
22 ordination of activities, including intramural
23 and extramural multidisciplinary activities; and

24 “(C) making recommendations to the Di-
25 rector of the Centers for Disease Control and

1 Prevention concerning findings made under
2 subparagraphs (A) and (B).

3 “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than January 31, 2005,
4 and January 31 of each second year thereafter, the Direc-
5 tor of the Office shall prepare and submit to the appro-
6 priate committees of Congress a report describing the ac-
7 tivities carried out under this section during the period
8 for which the report is being prepared.

9 “(e) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term
10 ‘women’s health conditions’, with respect to women of all
11 age, ethnic, and racial groups, means diseases, disorders,
12 and conditions—

13 “(1) unique to, significantly more serious for,
14 or significantly more prevalent in women; and

15 “(2) for which the factors of medical risk or
16 type of medical intervention are different for women,
17 or for which there is reasonable evidence that indi-
18 cates that such factors or types may be different for
19 women.

20 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
21 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized
22 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
23 each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008.”.

1 **SEC. 4. AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUAL-**
2 **ITY ACTIVITIES REGARDING WOMEN'S**
3 **HEALTH.**

4 Part C of title IX of the Public Health Service Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 299e et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating sections 927 and 928 as
7 sections 928 and 929, respectively;

8 (2) by inserting after section 926 the following:

9 **“SEC. 927. ACTIVITIES REGARDING WOMEN’S HEALTH.**

10 “(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Director shall designate
11 an official of the Office of Priority Populations to carry
12 out the responsibilities described in this section for such
13 official.

14 “(b) **PURPOSE.**—The official designated under sub-
15 section (a) shall—

16 “(1) report to the Director on the current
17 Agency level of activity regarding women’s health,
18 across, where appropriate, age, biological, and
19 sociocultural contexts, in all aspects of Agency work,
20 including the development of evidence reports and
21 clinical practice protocols and the conduct of re-
22 search into patient outcomes, delivery of health care
23 services, quality of care, and access to health care;

24 “(2) establish short-range and long-range goals
25 and objectives within the Agency for research impor-
26 tant to women’s health and, as relevant and appro-

1 appropriate, coordinate with other appropriate offices on
2 activities within the Agency that relate to health
3 services and medical effectiveness research, for
4 issues of particular concern to women;

5 “(3) identify projects in women’s health that
6 should be conducted or supported by the Agency;

7 “(4) consult with health professionals, non-
8 governmental organizations, consumer organizations,
9 women’s health professionals, and other individuals
10 and groups, as appropriate, on Agency policy with
11 regard to women; and

12 “(5) serve as a member of the Department of
13 Health and Human Services Coordinating Com-
14 mittee on Women’s Health (established under sec-
15 tion 229(b)(4)).

16 “(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—

17 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out sub-
18 section (b), the official designated under subsection
19 (a) shall establish a committee to be known as the
20 Coordinating Committee on Women’s Health (re-
21 ferred to in this subsection as the ‘Coordinating
22 Committee’).

23 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Coordinating Com-
24 mittee shall be composed of the official designated

1 under subsection (a) and the directors of the centers
2 and offices of the Agency.

3 “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The official designated
4 under subsection (a) shall serve as the Chairperson
5 of the Coordinating Committee.

6 “(4) DUTIES.—With respect to research on
7 women’s health, the Coordinating Committee shall
8 assist the official designated under subsection (a)
9 in—

10 “(A) identifying the need for such re-
11 search, and making an estimate each fiscal year
12 of the funds needed to adequately support the
13 research;

14 “(B) identifying needs regarding the co-
15 ordination of research activities, including in-
16 tramural and extramural multidisciplinary ac-
17 tivities; and

18 “(C) making recommendations to the Di-
19 rector of the Agency concerning findings made
20 under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

21 “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than January 31, 2005,
22 and January 31 of each second year thereafter, the official
23 designated under subsection (a) shall prepare and submit
24 to the appropriate committees of Congress a report de-

1 scribing the activities carried out under this section during
 2 the period for which the report is being prepared.”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end of section 928 (as re-
 4 designated by paragraph (1)) the following:

5 “(e) WOMEN’S HEALTH.—For the purpose of car-
 6 rying out section 927 regarding women’s health, there are
 7 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
 8 essary for each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008.”.

9 **SEC. 5. HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRA-**
 10 **TION OFFICE OF WOMEN’S HEALTH.**

11 Title VII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 901
 12 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

13 “OFFICE OF WOMEN’S HEALTH

14 “SEC. 713. (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary
 15 shall establish within the Office of the Administrator of
 16 the Health Resources and Services Administration, an of-
 17 fice to be known as the Office of Women’s Health. The
 18 Office shall be headed by a director who shall be appointed
 19 by the Administrator.

20 “(b) PURPOSE.—The Director of the Office shall—

21 “(1) report to the Administrator on the current
 22 Administration level of activity regarding women’s
 23 health across, where appropriate, age, biological, and
 24 sociocultural contexts;

25 “(2) establish short-range and long-range goals
 26 and objectives within the Health Resources and

1 Services Administration for women’s health and, as
2 relevant and appropriate, coordinate with other ap-
3 propriate offices on activities within the Administra-
4 tion that relate to health care provider training,
5 health service delivery, research, and demonstration
6 projects, for issues of particular concern to women;

7 “(3) identify projects in women’s health that
8 should be conducted or supported by the bureaus of
9 the Administration;

10 “(4) consult with health professionals, non-
11 governmental organizations, consumer organizations,
12 women’s health professionals, and other individuals
13 and groups, as appropriate, on Administration policy
14 with regard to women; and

15 “(5) serve as a member of the Department of
16 Health and Human Services Coordinating Com-
17 mittee on Women’s Health (established under sec-
18 tion 229(b)(4) of the Public Health Service Act).

19 “(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—

20 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out sub-
21 section (b), the Director of the Office shall establish
22 a committee to be known as the Coordinating Com-
23 mittee on Women’s Health (referred to in this sub-
24 section as the ‘Coordinating Committee’).

1 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Coordinating Com-
2 mittee shall be composed of the directors of the bu-
3 reaus of the Administration.

4 “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Director of the Of-
5 fice shall serve as the Chairperson of the Coordi-
6 nating Committee.

7 “(4) DUTIES.—With respect to women’s health,
8 the Coordinating Committee shall assist the Director
9 of the Office in—

10 “(A) identifying the need for programs and
11 activities that focus on women’s health;

12 “(B) identifying needs regarding the co-
13 ordination of activities, including intramural
14 and extramural multidisciplinary activities; and

15 “(C) making recommendations to the Ad-
16 ministrators concerning findings made under
17 subparagraphs (A) and (B).

18 “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than January 31, 2005,
19 and January 31 of each second year thereafter, the Direc-
20 tor of the Office shall prepare and submit to the appro-
21 priate committees of Congress a report describing the ac-
22 tivities carried out under this section during the period
23 for which the report is being prepared.

24 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

1 “(b) PURPOSE.—The Director of the Office shall—

2 “(1) report to the Commissioner of Food and
3 Drugs on current Food and Drug Administration
4 (referred to in this section as the ‘Administration’) levels of activity regarding women’s participation in
5 clinical trials and the analysis of data by sex in the
6 testing of drugs, medical devices, and biological
7 products across, where appropriate, age, biological,
8 and sociocultural contexts;

9 “(2) establish short-range and long-range goals
10 and objectives within the Administration for issues
11 of particular concern to women’s health within the
12 jurisdiction of the Administration, including, where
13 relevant and appropriate, adequate inclusion of
14 women and analysis of data by sex in Administration
15 protocols and policies;

16 “(3) provide information to women and health
17 care providers on those areas in which differences
18 between men and women exist;

19 “(4) consult with pharmaceutical, biologics, and
20 device manufacturers, health professionals with ex-
21 pertise in women’s issues, consumer organizations,
22 and women’s health professionals on Administration
23 policy with regard to women;
24

1 “(5) make annual estimates of funds needed to
2 monitor clinical trials and analysis of data by sex in
3 accordance with needs that are identified; and

4 “(6) serve as a member of the Department of
5 Health and Human Services Coordinating Com-
6 mittee on Women’s Health (established under sec-
7 tion 229(b)(4) of the Public Health Service Act).

8 “(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—

9 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out sub-
10 section (b), the Director of the Office shall establish
11 a committee to be known as the Coordinating Com-
12 mittee on Women’s Health (referred to in this sub-
13 section as the ‘Coordinating Committee’).

14 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Coordinating Com-
15 mittee shall be composed of the directors of the cen-
16 ters of the Administration.

17 “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Director of the Of-
18 fice shall serve as the Chairperson of the Coordi-
19 nating Committee.

20 “(4) DUTIES.—With respect to women’s health,
21 the Coordinating Committee shall assist the Director
22 of the Office in—

23 “(A) identifying whether there is a need
24 for further studies and, if so, developing strate-
25 gies to foster such studies;

1 “(B) identifying issues in specific areas of
2 women’s health that fall within the mission of
3 the Administration;

4 “(C) identifying whether any need exists
5 for the coordination of Administration activi-
6 ties, including internal and external activities;

7 “(D) maintaining the Administration’s
8 focus in areas of importance to women;

9 “(E) supporting the development of meth-
10 odologies to determine how to obtain data spe-
11 cific to women (including data relating to the
12 age of women and the membership of women in
13 ethnic or racial groups); and

14 “(F) supporting the development and ex-
15 pansion of clinical trials of treatments and
16 therapies for which obtaining such data has
17 been determined to be an appropriate function.

18 “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than January 31, 2005,
19 and January 31 of each second year thereafter, the Direc-
20 tor of the Office shall prepare and submit to the appro-
21 priate committees of Congress a report describing the ac-
22 tivities carried out under this section during the period
23 for which the report is being prepared.

24 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
25 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized

1 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for
2 each of the fiscal years 2004 through 2008.”.

3 **SEC. 7. NO NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

4 Nothing in this Act and the amendments made by
5 this Act may be construed as establishing regulatory au-
6 thority or modifying any existing regulatory authority.

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