

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1447

To establish grant programs to improve the health of border area residents and for bioterrorism preparedness in the border area, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 23 (legislative day, JULY 21), 2003

Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCAIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish grant programs to improve the health of border area residents and for bioterrorism preparedness in the border area, 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 “Border Health Secu-
5 rity Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) **BORDER AREA.**—The term “border area”
9 has the meaning given the term “United States-

1 Mexico Border Area” in section 8 of the United
2 States-Mexico Border Health Commission Act (22
3 U.S.C. 290n–6).

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

6 **SEC. 3. BORDER HEALTH GRANTS.**

7 (a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,
8 the term “eligible entity” means a State, public institution
9 of higher education, local government, tribal government,
10 nonprofit health organization, or community health center
11 receiving assistance under section 330 of the Public
12 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b), that is located in
13 the border area.

14 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—From funds appropriated
15 under subsection (f), the Secretary, acting through the
16 United States members of the United States-Mexico Bor-
17 der Health Commission, shall award grants to eligible en-
18 tities to address priorities and recommendations to im-
19 prove the health of border area residents that are estab-
20 lished by—

- 21 (1) the United States members of the United
22 States-Mexico Border Health Commission;
23 (2) the State border health offices; and
24 (3) the Secretary.

1 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires a
 2 grant under subsection (b) shall submit an application to
 3 the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-
 4 taining such information as the Secretary may require.

5 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
 6 a grant under subsection (b) shall use the grant funds
 7 for—

8 (1) programs relating to—

9 (A) maternal and child health;

10 (B) primary care and preventative health;

11 (C) public health and public health infra-
 12 structure;

13 (D) health promotion;

14 (E) oral health;

15 (F) behavioral and mental health;

16 (G) substance abuse;

17 (H) health conditions that have a high
 18 prevalence in the border area;

19 (I) medical and health services research;

20 (J) workforce training and development;

21 (K) community health workers or
 22 promotoras;

23 (L) health care infrastructure problems in
 24 the border area (including planning and con-
 25 struction grants);

1 (M) health disparities in the border area;

2 (N) environmental health;

3 (O) health education; and

4 (P) outreach and enrollment services with

5 respect to Federal programs (including pro-

6 grams authorized under titles XIX and XXI of

7 the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 and

8 1397aa)); and

9 (2) other programs determined appropriate by

10 the Secretary.

11 (e) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts pro-

12 vided to an eligible entity awarded a grant under sub-

13 section (b) shall be used to supplement and not supplant

14 other funds available to the eligible entity to carry out the

15 activities described in subsection (d).

16 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is

17 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,

18 \$200,000,000 for fiscal year 2004, and such sums as may

19 be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

20 **SEC. 4. BORDER BIOTERRORISM PREPAREDNESS GRANTS.**

21 (a) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,

22 the term “eligible entity” means a State, local govern-

23 ment, tribal government, or public health entity.

24 (b) AUTHORIZATION.—From funds appropriated

25 under subsection (e), the Secretary shall award grants to

1 eligible entities for bioterrorism preparedness in the bor-
2 der area.

3 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires a
4 grant under this section shall submit an application to the
5 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
6 such information as the Secretary may require.

7 (d) USES OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
8 a grant under subsection (b) shall use the grant funds
9 to—

10 (1) develop and implement bioterror prepared-
11 ness plans and readiness assessments and purchase
12 items necessary for such plans;

13 (2) coordinate bioterrorism and emergency pre-
14 paredness planning in the region;

15 (3) improve infrastructure, including syndrome
16 surveillance and laboratory capacity;

17 (4) create a health alert network, including risk
18 communication and information dissemination;

19 (5) educate and train clinicians, epidemiolo-
20 gists, laboratories, and emergency personnel; and

21 (6) carry out such other activities identified by
22 the Secretary, the United States-Mexico Border
23 Health Commission, State and local public health of-
24 fices, and border health offices.

1 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
 2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
 3 \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and such sums as may
 4 be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.

5 **SEC. 5. UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER HEALTH COMMIS-**
 6 **SION ACT AMENDMENTS.**

7 The United States-Mexico Border Health Commis-
 8 sion Act (22 U.S.C. 290n et seq.) is amended by adding
 9 at the end the following:

10 **“SEC. 9. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 “There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 12 this Act \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2004 and such sums
 13 as may be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

14 **SEC. 6. COORDINATION OF HEALTH SERVICES AND SUR-**
 15 **VEILLANCE.**

16 The Secretary may coordinate with the Secretary of
 17 Homeland Security in establishing a health alert system
 18 that—

19 (1) alerts clinicians and public health officials
 20 of emerging disease clusters and syndromes along
 21 the border area; and

22 (2) is alerted to signs of health threats or bio-
 23 terrorism along the border area.

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