

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1810

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve treatment for the mental health and substance abuse needs of women with histories of trauma, including domestic and sexual violence.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 31, 2003

Mr. DASCHLE (for Mr. EDWARDS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve treatment for the mental health and substance abuse needs of women with histories of trauma, including domestic and sexual violence.

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 in Trauma
5 Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Researchers have concluded that women
2 may experience significant adverse mental health
3 consequences relating to trauma exposure, often the
4 result of sexual or domestic violence.

5 (2) The majority of women suffering from both
6 substance abuse and mental health problems have
7 been victims of rape, incest, or physical or emotional
8 abuse and hundreds of thousands of these same
9 women are also severely beaten by their husbands or
10 a significant male intimate. Surveys have indicated
11 that approximately 1,500,000 children are physically
12 abused each year and 700,000 are victims of sexual
13 abuse.

14 (3) Women with serious mental illnesses are
15 over-represented in samples that experienced trauma,
16 including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse.
17 Between 50 and 70 percent of women hospitalized
18 for mental health disorders have a history of trauma.
19 ma.

20 (4) Even for people whose mental health problems
21 are caused by other factors, a history of early
22 physical or sexual abuse leads to the earlier onset of
23 their illness, a more severe course of illness, and a
24 greater likelihood of suicide and other poor outcomes.
25 comes.

1 (5) Trauma exposure is generally prevalent in
2 people who suffer from mental health and substance
3 abuse problems, and can worsen the course and
4 overall impact of these illnesses.

5 (6) In a recent study, 97 percent of homeless
6 women with mental illness were found to have expe-
7 rienced severe physical or sexual abuse and 87 per-
8 cent experienced this abuse both as children and as
9 adults.

10 (7) Of women in prisons and jails, 80 to 100
11 percent have been victims of physical and sexual
12 abuse.

13 (8) The prevalence of violence- and trauma-re-
14 lated problems among women with mental health
15 and substance abuse problems is not adequately ad-
16 dressed by most treatment practices.

17 (9) There is an urgent need to provide services
18 that directly address the issue of trauma for women
19 suffering from mental health and substance abuse
20 problems.

21 (10) To improve mental health and substance
22 abuse services for women, further research to ex-
23 pand the development and implementation of trau-
24 ma-sensitive services is needed as well as additional
25 services to improve access to comprehensive thera-

1 peutic interventions and to the support needed to
2 overcome barriers to recovery.

3 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO IMPROVE TREATMENT FOR WOMEN**
4 **WITH HISTORIES OF TRAUMA.**

5 Subpart 3 of part B of title V of the Public Health
6 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31 et seq.) is amended by
7 adding at the end the following:

8 **“SEC. 520K. GRANTS TO IMPROVE TREATMENT FOR WOMEN**
9 **WITH HISTORIES OF TRAUMA.**

10 “(a) RESEARCH GRANTS.—

11 “(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

12 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
13 through the Director of the National Institute
14 of Mental Health and in consultation with the
15 Administrator of the Substance Abuse and
16 Mental Health Services Administration, shall
17 award grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
18 ments to public and nonprofit private entities,
19 as well as Indian tribes and tribal organiza-
20 tions, for the purpose of building the evidence
21 base for new treatment interventions that si-
22 multaneously address trauma, substance abuse,
23 and mental health disorders, including depres-
24 sion and anxiety disorders (including post-trau-
25 matic stress disorder), psychotic and dissocia-

1 tive disorders, and the integration of existing
2 interventions for the treatment of trauma, sub-
3 stance abuse, and mental health disorders, in-
4 cluding depression and anxiety disorders (in-
5 cluding post-traumatic stress disorder), psy-
6 chotic and dissociative disorders.

7 “(B) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The
8 Secretary shall ensure that grants, contracts, or
9 cooperative agreements awarded pursuant to
10 this paragraph are distributed equitably among
11 regions of the country and among urban and
12 rural areas.

13 “(C) DURATION OF AWARDS.—Grants,
14 contracts, or cooperative agreements awarded
15 pursuant to this paragraph may not exceed 5
16 years. Such grants, contracts, or agreements
17 may be renewed.

18 “(2) APPLICATION.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each entity desiring a
20 grant under this subsection shall submit an ap-
21 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such
22 manner, and accompanied by such information
23 as the Secretary may reasonably require.

24 “(B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-
25 mitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall—

1 “(i) describe the activities for which
2 assistance under this subsection is sought;
3 and

4 “(ii) demonstrate that the testing of
5 treatment interventions will be carried out
6 through community-based treatment pro-
7 grams.

8 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
9 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
10 this subsection, such sums as may be necessary.

11 “(b) TREATMENT GRANTS.—

12 “(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
14 through the Administrator of the Substance
15 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administra-
16 tion, shall make grants to public and nonprofit
17 private entities, including Indian tribes and
18 tribal organizations, for the purpose of pro-
19 viding comprehensive community-based mental
20 health and substance abuse services to women
21 who have experienced a history of physical or
22 sexual abuse, or other types of trauma.

23 “(B) GRANTMAKING CONSIDERATIONS.—

24 The Secretary shall ensure that—

1 “(i) grants awarded pursuant to this
2 paragraph are distributed equitably among
3 the regions of the country and among
4 urban and rural areas; and

5 “(ii) preference is given to applicants
6 with strong ties to minority communities
7 and those that offer services that are cul-
8 turally and linguistically appropriate.

9 “(C) DURATION.—The Secretary shall
10 award grants under this paragraph for a period
11 not to exceed 5 years. Such grants may be re-
12 newed.

13 “(2) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary,
14 acting through the Administrator of the Substance
15 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,
16 shall provide technical assistance to entities awarded
17 grants pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to the
18 implementation of programs described in paragraph
19 (3).

20 “(3) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity awarded a
21 grant pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

22 “(A) establish and operate 1 or more mul-
23 tidisciplinary integrated systems of community-
24 based care—

1 “(i) to include medical, social, and be-
2 havioral services for the simultaneous and
3 coordinated treatment of trauma, sub-
4 stance abuse, and mental health disorders,
5 including depression and anxiety disorders
6 (including post-traumatic stress disorder),
7 psychotic and dissociative disorders;

8 “(ii) that specifically addresses the
9 impact of trauma on the lives of women re-
10 ceiving services through the grant; and

11 “(iii) that may include services for
12 children of women who are survivors of
13 trauma;

14 “(B) establish avenues for the involvement
15 of women who access the services described in
16 subparagraph (A), in all phases of service deliv-
17 ery and design including in the development of
18 individualized treatment plans;

19 “(C) offer specialized and structured treat-
20 ment components addressing trauma that are
21 culture- and gender-specific;

22 “(D) implement collaboration among public
23 and private nonprofit entities likely to serve
24 women with histories of trauma including rape
25 and domestic violence programs, hospital emer-

1 agency rooms, appropriate branches of the crimi-
2 nal justice system, low-income housing authori-
3 ties, substance abuse and mental health service
4 providers, consolidated health centers, battered
5 women’s shelters, and churches and other com-
6 munity-based organizations;

7 “(E) undertake aggressive outreach efforts
8 to encourage women from minority commu-
9 nities, in particular, to participate; and

10 “(F) offer educational materials or train-
11 ing, through subparagraph (D) or other ave-
12 nues, to agencies and community-based organi-
13 zations that serve women with histories of trau-
14 ma to increase awareness of the devastating im-
15 pact of chronic exposures to traumatic experi-
16 ences on women’s mental health and of the
17 need to address this impact in the context of
18 mental health and substance abuse treatment.

19 “(4) ACCESS TO CHILD CARE.—An entity
20 awarded a grant pursuant to paragraph (1) may use
21 grant funds to provide child care, either directly or
22 through an off site, licensed child care provider, to
23 women offered services under such grant to facilitate
24 participation and address a primary barrier to care.

25 “(5) APPLICATION.—

1 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each entity desiring a
2 grant under this subsection shall submit an ap-
3 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such
4 manner, and accompanied by such information
5 as the Secretary may reasonably require.

6 “(B) CONTENTS.—Each application sub-
7 mitted pursuant to subparagraph (A) shall—

8 “(i) describe the activities for which
9 assistance under this subsection is sought;
10 and

11 “(ii) describe a plan for the rigorous
12 evaluation of such activities, including both
13 process and outcome evaluation, and the
14 submission of the evaluation at the end of
15 the project period.

16 “(6) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
17 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this subsection, such sums as may be necessary.”.

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