

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1811

To expand research for women in trauma.

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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

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## A BILL

To expand research for women in trauma.

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 “Expanding Research  
5 for Women in Trauma Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Most studies of violence against women cur-  
9 rently focus on physical abuse or rape, primarily be-  
10 cause they are easier to identify and measure and  
11 are potentially lethal, however, almost all battered

1 women describe psychological abuse as the most  
2 harmful.

3 (2) Most available research on violence against  
4 women has focused on young to middle-aged white  
5 women living in the community although available  
6 data shows that incarcerated women, women living  
7 in poverty, women belonging to minority ethnic and  
8 language groups, older women, and women with  
9 mental and physical disabilities report especially  
10 high rates of victimization.

11 (3) Victims of violence are at increased risk for  
12 a number of physical and mental health problems,  
13 for example, in primary care practice, women who  
14 have been raped report more symptoms of illness  
15 and more negative health behaviors than nonvictim-  
16 ized women.

17 (4) Effective methods for screening to identify  
18 women affected by violence are prerequisite to un-  
19 derstanding the outcomes of abuse-sensitive medical  
20 care, for example, the effect of medical attention to  
21 violence on perceived health utilization of health  
22 services over time, and patient satisfaction.

23 (5) Violence against women occurs in a  
24 sociocultural context. More research should be con-  
25 ducted to identify sociocultural factors that promote

1 and maintain violence against women and to learn  
2 how sociocultural factors, such as gender roles and  
3 poverty, mediate the effects of interpersonal victim-  
4 ization.

5 (6) There are a number of community-based  
6 and legal system interventions available to victims of  
7 interpersonal violence. However, there is little eval-  
8 uation research on the effectiveness of these inter-  
9 ventions, especially for various subpopulations of  
10 women. More research needs to be conducted on the  
11 effectiveness of legal and community-based interven-  
12 tions, not only those with the goal of changing the  
13 behavior of assailants but also those with the goal of  
14 helping women take safety-promoting actions.

15 (7) Much of the research on violence against  
16 women examines continuing rates of physical or psy-  
17 chological abuse as outcome measures and measures  
18 the behavior of the perpetrators, not something over  
19 which the woman has direct and immediate control.  
20 However, research on the women's attempts to man-  
21 age and end the violence in their lives is rare.

22 (8) Much of the extant research has focused on  
23 violence against women in the streets (sexual as-  
24 sault) or in their homes (domestic violence and bat-  
25 tering). However, consistent focus on violence

1 against women in work-related (violence by partners  
2 in these settings and by coworkers and colleagues)  
3 and educational contexts has been more limited.

4 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH INITIATIVES.**

5 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
6 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
7 the following:

8 **“SEC. 3990. VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESEARCH INITIA-**  
9 **TIVES.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
11 with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and  
12 Prevention, the Director of the National Institute of Men-  
13 tal Health, the Director of the Office of Research on Wom-  
14 en’s Health, the Director of the Office of Women’s Health,  
15 the Director of the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the  
16 Director of the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and  
17 Alcoholism, the Director of the National Institute for Oc-  
18 cupational Safety and Health, the Director of the Office  
19 of Behavioral and Social Science, the Director of the Sub-  
20 stance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, and the  
21 Director of the National Center on Minority Health and  
22 Health Disparities shall make grants and enter into con-  
23 tracts to—

24 “(1) increase research on the psychological  
25 sequelae of violence against women;

1           “(2) expand research on special populations and  
2           their risk for violence, including adolescents, older  
3           women, ethnic minorities, women with disabilities,  
4           and other affected populations;

5           “(3) increase research on violence against  
6           women as a risk factor for various mental and phys-  
7           ical health problems;

8           “(4) develop and test effective methods of  
9           screening for violence in all points of entry to the  
10          health care system, including mental health, emer-  
11          gency medicine, and primary care;

12          “(5) expand and enhance research on socio-  
13          economic and sociocultural correlates of violence,  
14          such as the factors that create the predisposition to-  
15          ward violent behavior, situational variables that trig-  
16          ger the expression of violence, and social processes  
17          that allow violence to continue without negative con-  
18          sequences to the perpetrator;

19          “(6) develop systematic and quantifiable meas-  
20          ures to evaluate treatment programs for victims and  
21          perpetrators of violence;

22          “(7) conduct research to increase better under-  
23          standing of the complex process victimized women go  
24          through in attempting to manage and end the vio-

1 lence in their lives and focus on resilience and cop-  
2 ing mechanisms; and

3 “(8) develop standardized questions concerning  
4 rape, battering, and sexual harassment in work-re-  
5 lated and educational contexts to be routinely in-  
6 cluded in governmentally sponsored national surveys  
7 in order to obtain a fuller and more accurate assess-  
8 ment of the nature, prevalence, and effect of mul-  
9 tiple forms of violence against women in these set-  
10 tings.

11 “(b) MAXIMUM AMOUNT.—The Secretary shall not  
12 award a grant under this section in an amount which ex-  
13 ceeds \$500,000.

14 “(c) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award grants  
15 under this section for a period not to exceed 5 years.

16 “(d) APPLICATION.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity desir-  
18 ing a grant under this section shall submit an appli-  
19 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such man-  
20 ner, and accompanied by such information as the  
21 Secretary may reasonably require.

22 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted  
23 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

24 “(A) describe the activities for which as-  
25 sistance under this section is sought; and

1           “(B) provide such additional assurances as  
2           the Secretary determines to be essential to en-  
3           sure compliance with the requirements of this  
4           section.

5           “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
6           are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,  
7           such sums as may be necessary.”.

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