

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 983

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 1, 2003

Mr. CHAFEE (for himself, Mr. REID, Mr. HATCH, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. WARNER, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. ALLEN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mrs. MURRAY, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. REED, and Mr. CORZINE) 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 authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Breast Cancer and
3 Environmental Research Act of 2003”.

4 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

5 The Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) Breast cancer is the second leading cause of
7 cancer deaths among American women.

8 (2) More women in the United States are living
9 with breast cancer than any other cancer (excluding
10 skin cancer). Approximately 3,000,000 women in the
11 United States are living with breast cancer,
12 2,000,000 of which have been diagnosed and an esti-
13 mated 1,000,000 who do not yet know that they
14 have the disease.

15 (3) Breast cancer is the most commonly diag-
16 nosed cancer among women in the United States
17 and worldwide (excluding skin cancer). In 2003, it
18 is estimated that 258,600 new cases of breast cancer
19 will be diagnosed among women in the United
20 States, 211,300 cases of which will involve invasive
21 breast cancer and 47,300 cases of which will involve
22 ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS).

23 (4) Breast cancer is the second leading cause of
24 cancer death for women in the United States. Ap-
25 proximately 40,000 women in the United States die
26 from the disease each year. Breast cancer is the

1 leading cause of cancer death for women in the
2 United States between the ages of 20 and 59, and
3 the leading cause of cancer death for women world-
wide.

5 (5) A woman in the United States has a 1 in
6 8 chance of developing invasive breast cancer in her
7 lifetime. This risk was 1 in 11 in 1975. In 2001, a
8 new case of breast cancer will be diagnosed every 2
9 minutes and a woman will die from breast cancer
10 every 13 minutes.

11 (6) All women are at risk for breast cancer.
12 About 90 percent of women who develop breast can-
13 cer do not have a family history of the disease.

14 (7) The National Action Plan on Breast Can-
15 cer, a public private partnership, has recognized the
16 importance of expanding the scope and breadth of
17 biomedical, epidemiological, and behavioral research
18 activities related to the etiology of breast cancer and
19 the role of the environment.

20 (8) To date, there has been only a limited re-
21 search investment to expand the scope or coordinate
22 efforts across disciplines or work with the commu-
23 nity to study the role of the environment in the de-
24 velopment of breast cancer.

(10) In order to understand the effect of chemicals and radiation on the development of cancer, multi-generational, prospective studies are probably required.

10 SEC. 3. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL
11 HEALTH SCIENCES; AWARDS FOR DEVELOP-
12 MENT AND OPERATION OF RESEARCH CEN-
13TERS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL FAC-
14 TORS RELATED TO BREAST CANCER.

15 Subpart 12 of part C of title IV of the Public Health
16 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285L et seq.) is amended by adding
17 at the end the following section:

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Institute,
22 based on recommendations from the Breast Cancer and
23 Environmental Research Panel established under sub-
24 section (b) (referred to in this section as the ‘Panel’) shall
25 make grants, after a process of peer review and pro-

1 grammatic review, to public or nonprofit private entities
2 for the development and operation of not more than 8 cen-
3 ters for the purpose of conducting multidisciplinary and
4 multi-institutional research on environmental factors that
5 may be related to the etiology of breast cancer. Each such
6 center shall be known as a Breast Cancer and Environ-
7 mental Research Center of Excellence.

8 “(b) BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RE-
9 SEARCH PANEL.—

10 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-
11 tablish in the Institute of Environmental Health
12 Sciences a Breast Cancer and Environmental Re-
13 search Panel.

14 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Panel shall be com-
15 posed of—

16 “(A) 9 members to be appointed by the
17 Secretary, of which—

18 “(i) six members shall be appointed
19 from among physicians, and other health
20 professionals, who—

21 “(I) are not officers or employees
22 of the United States;

23 “(II) represent multiple dis-
24 ciplines, including clinical, basic, and
25 public health sciences;

1 “(III) represent different geo-
2 graphical regions of the United
3 States;

4 “(IV) are from practice settings
5 or academia or other research set-
6 tings; and

7 “(V) are experienced in bio-
8 medical review; and

9 “(ii) three members shall be appointed
10 from the general public who are represent-
11 atives of individuals who have had breast
12 cancer and who represent a constituency;
13 and

14 “(B) such nonvoting, ex officio members as
15 the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

16 “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The members of the
17 Panel appointed under paragraph (2)(A) shall select
18 a chairperson from among such members.

19 “(4) MEETINGS.—The Panel shall meet at the
20 call of the chairperson or upon the request of the
21 Director, but in no case less often than once each
22 year.

23 “(5) DUTIES.—The Panel shall—

24 “(A) oversee the peer review process for
25 the awarding of grants under subsection (a)

1 and conduct the programmatic review under
2 such subsection;

3 “(B) make recommendations with respect
4 to the funding criteria and mechanisms under
5 which amounts will be allocated under this sec-
6 tion; and

7 “(C) make final programmatic rec-
8 ommendations with respect to grants under this
9 section.

10 “(c) COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY.—Each
11 center under subsection (a) shall establish and maintain
12 ongoing collaborations with community organizations in
13 the geographic area served by the center, including those
14 that represent women with breast cancer.

15 “(d) COORDINATION OF CENTERS; REPORTS.—The
16 Director of the Institute shall, as appropriate, provide for
17 the coordination of information among centers under sub-
18 section (a) and ensure regular communication between
19 such centers, and may require the periodic preparation of
20 reports on the activities of the centers and the submission
21 of the reports to the Director.

22 “(e) REQUIRED CONSORTIUM.—Each center under
23 subsection (a) shall be formed from a consortium of co-
24 operating institutions, meeting such requirements as may
25 be prescribed by the Director of the Institute. Each center

1 shall require collaboration among highly accomplished sci-
2 entists, other health professionals and advocates of diverse
3 backgrounds from various areas of expertise.

4 “(f) DURATION OF SUPPORT.—Support of a center
5 under subsection (a) may be for a period not exceeding
6 5 years. Such period may be extended for one or more
7 additional periods not exceeding 5 years if the operations
8 of such center have been reviewed by an appropriate tech-
9 nical and scientific peer review group established by the
10 Director of the Institute and if such group has rec-
11 ommended to the Director that such period should be ex-
12 tended.

13 “(g) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CENTERS.—
14 The Director of the Institute shall, to the extent prac-
15 ticable, provide for an equitable geographical distribution
16 of centers under this section.

17 “(h) INNOVATIVE APPROACHES.—Each center under
18 subsection (a) shall use innovative approaches to study un-
19 explored or under-explored areas of the environment and
20 breast cancer.

21 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
22 purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized
23 to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
24 2004 through 2009. Such authorization is in addition to

- 1 any other authorization of appropriations that is available
- 2 for such purpose.”.

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