

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2231

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.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 10, 2005

Mrs. LOWEY (for herself and Mrs. MYRICK) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## 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,*

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Breast Cancer and  
5       Environmental Research Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) Breast cancer is the second leading cause of  
4 cancer deaths among American women.5 (2) More women in the United States are living  
6 with breast cancer than any other cancer (excluding  
7 skin cancer). Approximately 3,000,000 women in the  
8 United States are living with breast cancer, about  
9 2,000,000 of which have been diagnosed and an esti-  
10 mated 1,000,000 who do not yet know that they  
11 have the disease.12 (3) Breast cancer is the most commonly diag-  
13 nosed cancer among women in the United States  
14 and worldwide (excluding skin cancer). In 2005, it  
15 is estimated that 269,730 new cases of breast cancer  
16 will be diagnosed among women in the United  
17 States, 211,240 invasive breast cancers and 58,490  
18 cases of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS).19 (4) Approximately 40,410 women in the United  
20 States will die from the disease in 2005. Breast can-  
21 cer is the leading cause of cancer death for women  
22 in the United States between the ages of 20 and 59,  
23 and the leading cause of cancer death for women  
24 worldwide.25 (5) A woman who lives into her 80s in the  
26 United States has a 1 in 7 chance of developing

1 invasive breast cancer in her lifetime. This risk was  
2 1 in 11 in 1975. In 2005, a new case of breast can-  
3 cer will be diagnosed every 2 minutes and a woman  
4 will die from breast cancer every 13 minutes.

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

8 (7) The National Action Plan on Breast Can-  
9 cer, a public private partnership, has recognized the  
10 importance of expanding the scope and breadth of  
11 biomedical, epidemiological, and behavioral research  
12 activities related to the etiology of breast cancer and  
13 the role of the environment.

14 (8) To date, there has been only a limited re-  
15 search investment to expand the scope or coordinate  
16 efforts across disciplines or work with the commu-  
17 nity to study the role of the environment in the de-  
18 velopment of breast cancer.

19 (9) In 2003, the National Institute of Environ-  
20 mental Health Sciences awarded grants to four re-  
21 search centers to begin to study the prenatal-to-  
22 adult environmental exposures that may predispose  
23 a woman to breast cancer. The currently funded re-  
24 search is examining the mammary tissue in animals  
25 and young girls and study the subjects' life expo-

1       sures to environmental, nutritional, and social fac-  
2       tors that impact menarche. Early menarche, begin-  
3       ning menstruation before the age of 12, has been  
4       shown to increase breast cancer risk later in life.

5               (10) The National Cancer Institute and the Na-  
6       tional Institute of Environmental Health Sciences  
7       have paired together to make those four centers pos-  
8       sible. The two institutes work well together, com-  
9       bining their respective areas of expertise to the best  
10      advantage of the research.

11               (11) In order to take full advantage of the tre-  
12       mendous potential for avenues of prevention, the  
13       Federal investment in the role of the environment  
14       and the development of breast cancer should be ex-  
15       panded. The research conducted at the four centers,  
16       while critically important, is one small facet of the  
17       many issues that must be addressed in order to  
18       gauge the link between environmental factors and  
19       breast cancer.

20               (12) In order to understand the effect of chemi-  
21       cals and radiation on the development of cancer,  
22       multi-generational, prospective studies are probably  
23       required.

1 SEC. 3. NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF ENVIRONMENTAL  
2 HEALTH SCIENCES; AWARDS FOR DEVELOP-  
3 MENT AND OPERATION OF RESEARCH CEN-  
4 TERS REGARDING ENVIRONMENTAL FAC-  
5 TORS RELATED TO BREAST CANCER.

6 Subpart 12 of part C of title IV of the Public Health  
7 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 285l et seq.) is amended by adding  
8 at the end the following section:

9 **“SEC. 463C. RESEARCH CENTERS REGARDING ENVIRON-  
10 MENTAL FACTORS RELATED TO BREAST CAN-  
11 CER.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Institute,  
13 based on recommendations from the Breast Cancer and  
14 Environmental Research Panel established under sub-  
15 section (b) (referred to in this section as the ‘Panel’), shall  
16 make grants, after a process of peer review and pro-  
17 grammatic review, to public or nonprofit private entities  
18 for the development and operation of not more than 8 cen-  
19 ters for the purpose of conducting multidisciplinary and  
20 multi-institutional research on environmental factors that  
21 may be related to the etiology of breast cancer. Each such  
22 center shall be known as a Breast Cancer and Environ-  
23 mental Research Center of Excellence.

24 “(b) BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RE-  
25 SEARCH PANEL.—

1                 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-  
2                 tablish in the Institute of Environmental Health  
3                 Sciences a Breast Cancer and Environmental Re-  
4                 search Panel.

5                 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Panel shall be com-  
6                 posed of—

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

9                                 “(i) six members shall be appointed  
10                 from among physicians, and other health  
11                 professionals, who—

12                                 “(I) are not officers or employees  
13                 of the United States;

14                                 “(II) represent multiple dis-  
15                 ciplines, including clinical, basic, and  
16                 public health sciences;

17                                 “(III) represent different geo-  
18                 graphical regions of the United  
19                 States;

20                                 “(IV) are from practice settings  
21                 or academia or other research set-  
22                 tings; and

23                                 “(V) are experienced in bio-  
24                 medical review; and

1                     “(ii) three members shall be appointed  
2                     from the general public who are represent-  
3                     atives of individuals who have had breast  
4                     cancer and who represent a constituency;  
5                     and

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

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

11                     “(4) MEETINGS.—The Panel shall meet at the  
12                     call of the chairperson or upon the request of the  
13                     Director, but in no case less often than once each  
14                     year.

15                     “(5) DUTIES.—The Panel shall—

16                         “(A) oversee the peer review process for  
17                     the awarding of grants under subsection (a)  
18                     and conduct the programmatic review under  
19                     such subsection;

20                         “(B) make recommendations with respect  
21                     to the funding criteria and mechanisms under  
22                     which amounts will be allocated under this sec-  
23                     tion; and

1                         “(C) make final programmatic rec-  
2                         ommendations with respect to grants under this  
3                         section.

4                 “(c) COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY.—Each  
5 center under subsection (a) shall establish and maintain  
6 ongoing collaborations with community organizations in  
7 the geographic area served by the center, including those  
8 that represent women with breast cancer.

9                 “(d) COORDINATION OF CENTERS; REPORTS.—The  
10 Director of the Institute shall, as appropriate, provide for  
11 the coordination of information among centers under sub-  
12 section (a) and ensure regular communication between  
13 such centers, and may require the periodic preparation of  
14 reports on the activities of the centers and the submission  
15 of the reports to the Director.

16                 “(e) REQUIRED CONSORTIUM.—Each center under  
17 subsection (a) shall be formed from a consortium of co-  
18 operating institutions, meeting such requirements as may  
19 be prescribed by the Director of the Institute. Each center  
20 shall require collaboration among highly accomplished sci-  
21 entists, other health professionals and advocates of diverse  
22 backgrounds from various areas of expertise.

23                 “(f) DURATION OF SUPPORT.—Support of a center  
24 under subsection (a) may be for a period not exceeding  
25 5 years. Such period may be extended for one or more

1 additional periods not exceeding 5 years if the operations  
2 of such center have been reviewed by an appropriate tech-  
3 nical and scientific peer review group established by the  
4 Director of the Institute and if such group has rec-  
5 ommended to the Director that such period should be ex-  
6 tended.

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

11       “(h) INNOVATIVE APPROACHES.—Each center under  
12 subsection (a) shall use innovative approaches to study un-  
13 explored or under-explored areas of the environment and  
14 breast cancer.

15       “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
16 purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized  
17 to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years  
18 2006 through 2011. Such authorization is in addition to  
19 any other authorization of appropriations that is available  
20 for such purpose.”.

