

109TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 569

To improve the health of women through the establishment of Offices of Women's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 8, 2005

Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. CORZINE, and Mrs. BOXER) 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 improve the health of women through the establishment of Offices of Women's Health within the Department of Health and Human Services.

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’s Health Office  
5       Act of 2005”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE ON WOM-**  
 2 **EN'S HEALTH.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Part A of title II of the Pub-  
 4 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 202 et seq.) is amended  
 5 by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 229. HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES OFFICE ON**  
 7 **WOMEN'S HEALTH.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT OF OFFICE.—The Secretary  
 9 shall establish within the Office of the Secretary, an Office  
 10 on Women's Health (referred to in this section as the ‘Of-  
 11 fice’). The Office shall be headed by a Deputy Assistant  
 12 Secretary for Women's Health.

13 “(b) DUTIES.—The Secretary, acting through the Of-  
 14 fice, with respect to the health concerns of women, shall—

15 “(1) establish short-range and long-range goals  
 16 and objectives within the Department of Health and  
 17 Human Services and, as relevant and appropriate,  
 18 coordinate with other appropriate offices on activi-  
 19 ties within the Department that relate to disease  
 20 prevention, health promotion, service delivery, re-  
 21 search, and public and health care professional edu-  
 22 cation, for issues of particular concern to women;

23 “(2) provide expert advice and consultation to  
 24 the Secretary concerning scientific, legal, ethical,  
 25 and policy issues relating to women's health;

1           “(3) monitor the Department of Health and  
2           Human Services’ offices, agencies, and regional ac-  
3           tivities regarding women’s health and stimulate ac-  
4           tivities and facilitate coordination of such depart-  
5           mental and agency offices on women’s health;

6           “(4) establish a Department of Health and  
7           Human Services Coordinating Committee on Wom-  
8           en’s Health, which shall be chaired by the Deputy  
9           Assistant Secretary for Women’s Health and com-  
10          posed of senior level representatives from each of the  
11          agencies and offices of the Department of Health  
12          and Human Services;

13          “(5) establish a National Women’s Health In-  
14          formation Center to—

15               “(A) facilitate the exchange of information  
16               regarding matters relating to health informa-  
17               tion, health promotion, preventive health serv-  
18               ices, research advances, and education in the  
19               appropriate use of health care;

20               “(B) facilitate access to such information;

21               “(C) assist in the analysis of issues and  
22               problems relating to the matters described in  
23               this paragraph; and

24               “(D) provide technical assistance with re-  
25               spect to the exchange of information (including

1           facilitating the development of materials for  
2           such technical assistance);

3           “(6) coordinate efforts to promote women’s  
4           health programs and policies with the private sector;  
5           and

6           “(7) through publications and any other means  
7           appropriate, provide for the exchange of information  
8           between the Office and recipients of grants, con-  
9           tracts, and agreements under subsection (c), and be-  
10          tween the Office and health professionals and the  
11          general public.

12          “(c) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS REGARDING DU-  
13          TIES.—

14               “(1) AUTHORITY.—In carrying out subsection  
15               (b), the Secretary may make grants to, and enter  
16               into cooperative agreements, contracts, and inter-  
17               agency agreements with, public and private entities,  
18               agencies, and organizations.

19               “(2) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The  
20               Secretary shall directly or through contracts with  
21               public and private entities, agencies, and organiza-  
22               tions, provide for evaluations of projects carried out  
23               with financial assistance provided under paragraph  
24               (1) and for the dissemination of information devel-  
25               oped as a result of such projects.

1       “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
2 of enactment of this section, and every second year there-  
3 after, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appro-  
4 priate committees of Congress a report describing the ac-  
5 tivities carried out under this section during the period  
6 for which the report is being prepared.

7       “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
8 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
9 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for  
10 each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010.”.

11       (b) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—There are trans-  
12 ferred to the Office on Women’s Health (established under  
13 section 229 of the Public Health Service Act, as added  
14 by this section), all functions exercised by the Office on  
15 Women’s Health of the Public Health Service prior to the  
16 date of enactment of this section, including all personnel  
17 and compensation authority, all delegation and assign-  
18 ment authority, and all remaining appropriations. All or-  
19 ders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, agree-  
20 ments, grants, contracts, certificates, licenses, registra-  
21 tions, privileges, and other administrative actions that—

22               (1) have been issued, made, granted, or allowed  
23 to become effective by the President, any Federal  
24 agency or official thereof, or by a court of competent

1 jurisdiction, in the performance of functions trans-  
 2 ferred under this subsection; and

3 (2) are in effect at the time this section takes  
 4 effect, or were final before the date of enactment of  
 5 this section and are to become effective on or after  
 6 such date;

7 shall continue in effect according to their terms until  
 8 modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in  
 9 accordance with law by the President, the Secretary, or  
 10 other authorized official, a court of competent jurisdiction,  
 11 or by operation of law.

12 **SEC. 3. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVEN-**  
 13 **TION OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH.**

14 Part A of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
 15 (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
 16 the following:

17 **“SEC. 310A. CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVEN-**  
 18 **TION OFFICE OF WOMEN'S HEALTH.**

19 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
 20 lish within the Office of the Director of the Centers for  
 21 Disease Control and Prevention, an office to be known as  
 22 the Office of Women's Health (referred to in this section  
 23 as the ‘Office’). The Office shall be headed by a director  
 24 who shall be appointed by the Director of such Centers.

25 “(b) PURPOSE.—The Director of the Office shall—

1           “(1) report to the Director of the Centers for  
2           Disease Control and Prevention on the current level  
3           of the Centers’ activity regarding women’s health  
4           conditions across, where appropriate, age, biological,  
5           and sociocultural contexts, in all aspects of the Cen-  
6           ters’ work, including prevention programs, public  
7           and professional education, services, and treatment;

8           “(2) establish short-range and long-range goals  
9           and objectives within the Centers for women’s health  
10          and, as relevant and appropriate, coordinate with  
11          other appropriate offices on activities within the  
12          Centers that relate to prevention, research, edu-  
13          cation and training, service delivery, and policy de-  
14          velopment, for issues of particular concern to  
15          women;

16          “(3) identify projects in women’s health that  
17          should be conducted or supported by the Centers;

18          “(4) consult with health professionals, non-  
19          governmental organizations, consumer organizations,  
20          women’s health professionals, and other individuals  
21          and groups, as appropriate, on the policy of the Cen-  
22          ters with regard to women; and

23          “(5) serve as a member of the Department of  
24          Health and Human Services Coordinating Com-

1        mittee on Women’s Health (established under sec-  
2        tion 229(b)(4)).

3        “(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—

4                “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out sub-  
5        section (b), the Director of the Office shall establish  
6        a committee to be known as the Coordinating Com-  
7        mittee on Women’s Health (referred to in this sub-  
8        section as the ‘Coordinating Committee’).

9                “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Coordinating Com-  
10       mittee shall be composed of the directors of the na-  
11       tional centers and other appropriate officials of the  
12       Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

13               “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Director of the Of-  
14       fice shall serve as the Chairperson of the Coordi-  
15       nating Committee.

16               “(4) DUTIES.—With respect to women’s health,  
17       the Coordinating Committee shall assist the Director  
18       of the Office in—

19                        “(A) identifying the need for programs and  
20       activities that focus on women’s health;

21                        “(B) identifying needs regarding the co-  
22       ordination of activities, including intramural  
23       and extramural multidisciplinary activities; and

24                        “(C) making recommendations to the Di-  
25       rector of the Centers for Disease Control and



1           Prevention concerning findings made under  
2           subparagraphs (A) and (B).

3           “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
4 of enactment of this section, and every second year there-  
5 after, the Director of the Office shall prepare and submit  
6 to the appropriate committees of Congress a report de-  
7 scribing the activities carried out under this section during  
8 the period for which the report is being prepared.

9           “(e) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term  
10 ‘women’s health conditions’, with respect to women of all  
11 age, ethnic, and racial groups, means diseases, disorders,  
12 and conditions—

13           “(1) unique to, significantly more serious for,  
14 or significantly more prevalent in women; and

15           “(2) for which the factors of medical risk or  
16 type of medical intervention are different for women,  
17 or for which there is reasonable evidence that indi-  
18 cates that such factors or types may be different for  
19 women.

20           “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
21 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
22 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for  
23 each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010.”.

1 **SEC. 4. AGENCY FOR HEALTHCARE RESEARCH AND QUAL-**  
 2 **ITY ACTIVITIES REGARDING WOMEN'S**  
 3 **HEALTH.**

4 Part C of title IX of the Public Health Service Act  
 5 (42 U.S.C. 299c et seq.) is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating sections 927 and 928 as  
 7 sections 928 and 929, respectively;

8 (2) by inserting after section 926 the following:

9 **“SEC. 927. ACTIVITIES REGARDING WOMEN’S HEALTH.**

10 **“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—**The Director shall designate  
 11 an official of the Office of Priority Populations to carry  
 12 out the responsibilities described in this section for such  
 13 official.

14 **“(b) PURPOSE.—**The official designated under sub-  
 15 section (a) shall—

16 **“(1)** report to the Director on the current  
 17 Agency level of activity regarding women’s health,  
 18 across, where appropriate, age, biological, and  
 19 sociocultural contexts, in all aspects of Agency work,  
 20 including the development of evidence reports and  
 21 clinical practice protocols and the conduct of re-  
 22 search into patient outcomes, delivery of health care  
 23 services, quality of care, and access to health care;

24 **“(2)** establish short-range and long-range goals  
 25 and objectives within the Agency for research impor-  
 26 tant to women’s health and, as relevant and appro-

1       priate, coordinate with other appropriate offices on  
2       activities within the Agency that relate to health  
3       services and medical effectiveness research, for  
4       issues of particular concern to women;

5               “(3) identify projects in women’s health that  
6       should be conducted or supported by the Agency;

7               “(4) consult with health professionals, non-  
8       governmental organizations, consumer organizations,  
9       women’s health professionals, and other individuals  
10      and groups, as appropriate, on Agency policy with  
11      regard to women; and

12              “(5) serve as a member of the Department of  
13      Health and Human Services Coordinating Com-  
14      mittee on Women’s Health (established under sec-  
15      tion 229(b)(4)).

16      “(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—

17              “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out sub-  
18      section (b), the official designated under subsection  
19      (a) shall establish a committee to be known as the  
20      Coordinating Committee on Women’s Health (re-  
21      ferred to in this subsection as the ‘Coordinating  
22      Committee’).

23              “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Coordinating Com-  
24      mittee shall be composed of the official designated

1 under subsection (a) and the directors of the centers  
2 and offices of the Agency.

3 “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The official designated  
4 under subsection (a) shall serve as the Chairperson  
5 of the Coordinating Committee.

6 “(4) DUTIES.—With respect to research on  
7 women’s health, the Coordinating Committee shall  
8 assist the official designated under subsection (a)  
9 in—

10 “(A) identifying the need for such re-  
11 search, and making an estimate each fiscal year  
12 of the funds needed to adequately support the  
13 research;

14 “(B) identifying needs regarding the co-  
15 ordination of research activities, including in-  
16 tramural and extramural multidisciplinary ac-  
17 tivities; and

18 “(C) making recommendations to the Di-  
19 rector of the Agency concerning findings made  
20 under subparagraphs (A) and (B).

21 “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
22 of enactment of this section, and every second year there-  
23 after, the official designated under subsection (a) shall  
24 prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Con-  
25 gress a report describing the activities carried out under

1 this section during the period for which the report is being  
 2 prepared.”; and

3 (3) by adding at the end of section 928 (as re-  
 4 designated by paragraph (1)) the following:

5 “(e) WOMEN’S HEALTH.—For the purpose of car-  
 6 rying out section 927 regarding women’s health, there are  
 7 authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-  
 8 essary for each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010.”.

9 **SEC. 5. HEALTH RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRA-**  
 10 **TION OFFICE OF WOMEN’S HEALTH.**

11 Title VII of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 901  
 12 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

13 **“SEC. 713. OFFICE OF WOMEN’S HEALTH.**

14 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
 15 lish within the Office of the Administrator of the Health  
 16 Resources and Services Administration, an office to be  
 17 known as the Office of Women’s Health. The Office shall  
 18 be headed by a director who shall be appointed by the Ad-  
 19 ministrator.

20 “(b) PURPOSE.—The Director of the Office shall—

21 “(1) report to the Administrator on the current  
 22 Administration level of activity regarding women’s  
 23 health across, where appropriate, age, biological, and  
 24 sociocultural contexts;

1           “(2) establish short-range and long-range goals  
 2           and objectives within the Health Resources and  
 3           Services Administration for women’s health and, as  
 4           relevant and appropriate, coordinate with other ap-  
 5           propriate offices on activities within the Administra-  
 6           tion that relate to health care provider training,  
 7           health service delivery, research, and demonstration  
 8           projects, for issues of particular concern to women;

9           “(3) identify projects in women’s health that  
 10          should be conducted or supported by the bureaus of  
 11          the Administration;

12          “(4) consult with health professionals, non-  
 13          governmental organizations, consumer organizations,  
 14          women’s health professionals, and other individuals  
 15          and groups, as appropriate, on Administration policy  
 16          with regard to women; and

17          “(5) serve as a member of the Department of  
 18          Health and Human Services Coordinating Com-  
 19          mittee on Women’s Health (established under sec-  
 20          tion 229(b)(4) of the Public Health Service Act).

21          “(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—

22          “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out sub-  
 23          section (b), the Director of the Office shall establish  
 24          a committee to be known as the Coordinating Com-

1        mittee on Women’s Health (referred to in this sub-  
2        section as the ‘Coordinating Committee’).

3            “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Coordinating Com-  
4        mittee shall be composed of the directors of the bu-  
5        reaus of the Administration.

6            “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Director of the Of-  
7        fice shall serve as the Chairperson of the Coordi-  
8        nating Committee.

9            “(4) DUTIES.—With respect to women’s health,  
10       the Coordinating Committee shall assist the Director  
11       of the Office in—

12            “(A) identifying the need for programs and  
13       activities that focus on women’s health;

14            “(B) identifying needs regarding the co-  
15       ordination of activities, including intramural  
16       and extramural multidisciplinary activities; and

17            “(C) making recommendations to the Ad-  
18       ministrator concerning findings made under  
19       subparagraphs (A) and (B).

20        “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
21       of enactment of this section, and every second year there-  
22       after, the Director of the Office shall prepare and submit  
23       to the appropriate committees of Congress a report de-  
24       scribing the activities carried out under this section during  
25       the period for which the report is being prepared.

1 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

2 “(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ‘Administra-  
3 tion’ means the Health Resources and Services Ad-  
4 ministration.

5 “(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ‘Adminis-  
6 trator’ means the Administrator of the Health Re-  
7 sources and Services Administration.

8 “(3) OFFICE.—The term ‘Office’ means the Of-  
9 fice of Women’s Health established under this sec-  
10 tion in the Administration.

11 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
12 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
13 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for  
14 each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010.”.

15 **SEC. 6. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION OFFICE OF**  
16 **WOMEN’S HEALTH.**

17 Chapter IX of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic  
18 Act (21 U.S.C. 391 et seq.) is amended by adding at the  
19 end the following:

20 **“SEC. 910. OFFICE OF WOMEN’S HEALTH.**

21 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
22 lish within the Office of the Commissioner, an office to  
23 be known as the Office of Women’s Health (referred to  
24 in this section as the ‘Office’). The Office shall be headed



1 by a director who shall be appointed by the Commissioner  
2 of Food and Drugs.

3 “(b) PURPOSE.—The Director of the Office shall—

4 “(1) report to the Commissioner of Food and  
5 Drugs on current Food and Drug Administration  
6 (referred to in this section as the ‘Administration’)  
7 levels of activity regarding women’s participation in  
8 clinical trials and the analysis of data by sex in the  
9 testing of drugs, medical devices, and biological  
10 products across, where appropriate, age, biological,  
11 and sociocultural contexts;

12 “(2) establish short-range and long-range goals  
13 and objectives within the Administration for issues  
14 of particular concern to women’s health within the  
15 jurisdiction of the Administration, including, where  
16 relevant and appropriate, adequate inclusion of  
17 women and analysis of data by sex in Administration  
18 protocols and policies;

19 “(3) provide information to women and health  
20 care providers on those areas in which differences  
21 between men and women exist;

22 “(4) consult with pharmaceutical, biologics, and  
23 device manufacturers, health professionals with ex-  
24 pertise in women’s issues, consumer organizations,

1 and women’s health professionals on Administration  
2 policy with regard to women;

3 “(5) make annual estimates of funds needed to  
4 monitor clinical trials and analysis of data by sex in  
5 accordance with needs that are identified; and

6 “(6) serve as a member of the Department of  
7 Health and Human Services Coordinating Com-  
8 mittee on Women’s Health (established under sec-  
9 tion 229(b)(4) of the Public Health Service Act).

10 “(c) COORDINATING COMMITTEE.—

11 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out sub-  
12 section (b), the Director of the Office shall establish  
13 a committee to be known as the Coordinating Com-  
14 mittee on Women’s Health (referred to in this sub-  
15 section as the ‘Coordinating Committee’).

16 “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Coordinating Com-  
17 mittee shall be composed of the directors of the cen-  
18 ters of the Administration.

19 “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The Director of the Of-  
20 fice shall serve as the Chairperson of the Coordi-  
21 nating Committee.

22 “(4) DUTIES.—With respect to women’s health,  
23 the Coordinating Committee shall assist the Director  
24 of the Office in—

1           “(A) identifying whether there is a need  
2           for further studies and, if so, developing strate-  
3           gies to foster such studies;

4           “(B) identifying issues in specific areas of  
5           women’s health that fall within the mission of  
6           the Administration;

7           “(C) identifying whether any need exists  
8           for the coordination of Administration activi-  
9           ties, including internal and external activities;

10          “(D) maintaining the Administration’s  
11          focus in areas of importance to women;

12          “(E) supporting the development of meth-  
13          odologies to determine how to obtain data spe-  
14          cific to women (including data relating to the  
15          age of women and the membership of women in  
16          ethnic or racial groups); and

17          “(F) supporting the development and ex-  
18          pansion of clinical trials of treatments and  
19          therapies for which obtaining such data has  
20          been determined to be an appropriate function.

21          “(d) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
22          of enactment of this section, and every second year there-  
23          after, the Director of the Office shall prepare and submit  
24          to the appropriate committees of Congress a report de-

1 scribing the activities carried out under this section during  
2 the period for which the report is being prepared.

3 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
4 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
5 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for  
6 each of the fiscal years 2006 through 2010.”.

7 **SEC. 7. NO NEW REGULATORY AUTHORITY.**

8 Nothing in this Act and the amendments made by  
9 this Act may be construed as establishing regulatory au-  
10 thority or modifying any existing regulatory authority.

○