

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 114

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment
of a National Center for Social Work Research.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 6, 2009

Mr. INOUE 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 provide for
the establishment of a National Center for Social Work
Research.

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 “National Center for
5 Social Work Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

8 (1) social workers focus on the improvement of
9 individual and family functioning and the creation of
10 effective health and mental health prevention and

1 treatment interventions in order for individuals to
 2 become more productive members of society;

3 (2) social workers provide front line prevention
 4 and treatment services in the areas of school vio-
 5 lence, aging, teen pregnancy, child abuse, domestic
 6 violence, juvenile crime, and substance abuse, par-
 7 ticularly in rural and underserved communities; and

8 (3) social workers are in a unique position to
 9 provide valuable research information on these com-
 10 plex social concerns, taking into account a wide
 11 range of social, medical, economic and community
 12 influences from an interdisciplinary, family-centered
 13 and community-based approach.

14 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CENTER FOR SO-**
 15 **CIAL WORK RESEARCH.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 401(a) of the Public
 17 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 281(a)) is amended by add-
 18 ing at the end the following:

19 “(26) The National Center for Social Work Re-
 20 search.”.

21 (b) ESTABLISHMENT.—Part E of title IV of the Pub-
 22 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 287 et seq.) is amended
 23 by adding at the end the following:

1 **“Subpart 7—National Center for Social Work**
2 **Research**

3 **“SEC. 485I. PURPOSE OF CENTER.**

4 “The general purpose of the National Center for So-
5 cial Work Research (referred to in this subpart as the
6 ‘Center’) is the conduct and support of, and dissemination
7 of targeted research concerning social work methods and
8 outcomes related to problems of significant social concern.

9 The Center shall—

10 “(1) promote research and training that is de-
11 signed to inform social work practices, thus increas-
12 ing the knowledge base which promotes a healthier
13 America; and

14 “(2) provide policymakers with empirically-
15 based research information to enable such policy-
16 makers to better understand complex social issues
17 and make informed funding decisions about service
18 effectiveness and cost efficiency.

19 **“SEC. 485J. SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purpose de-
21 scribed in section 485I, the Director of the Center may
22 provide research training and instruction and establish, in
23 the Center and in other nonprofit institutions, research
24 traineeships and fellowships in the study and investigation
25 of the prevention of disease, health promotion, the associa-
26 tion of socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, age and

1 geographical location and health, the social work care of
2 individuals with, and families of individuals with, acute
3 and chronic illnesses, child abuse, neglect, and youth vio-
4 lence, and child and family care to address problems of
5 significant social concern especially in underserved popu-
6 lations and underserved geographical areas.

7 “(b) STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES.—The Director of
8 the Center may provide individuals receiving training and
9 instruction or traineeships or fellowships under subsection
10 (a) with such stipends and allowances (including amounts
11 for travel and subsistence and dependency allowances) as
12 the Director determines necessary.

13 “(c) GRANTS.—The Director of the Center may make
14 grants to nonprofit institutions to provide training and in-
15 struction and traineeships and fellowships under sub-
16 section (a).

17 **“SEC. 485K. ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

18 “(a) DUTIES.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
20 lish an advisory council for the Center that shall ad-
21 vise, assist, consult with, and make recommenda-
22 tions to the Secretary and the Director of the Center
23 on matters related to the activities carried out by
24 and through the Center and the policies with respect
25 to such activities.

1 “(2) GIFTS.—The advisory council for the Cen-
 2 ter may recommend to the Secretary the acceptance,
 3 in accordance with section 231, of conditional gifts
 4 for study, investigations, and research and for the
 5 acquisition of grounds or construction, equipment, or
 6 maintenance of facilities for the Center.

7 “(3) OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.—The
 8 advisory council for the Center—

9 “(A)(i) may make recommendations to the
 10 Director of the Center with respect to research
 11 to be conducted by the Center;

12 “(ii) may review applications for grants
 13 and cooperative agreements for research or
 14 training and recommend for approval applica-
 15 tions for projects that demonstrate the prob-
 16 ability of making valuable contributions to
 17 human knowledge; and

18 “(iii) may review any grant, contract, or
 19 cooperative agreement proposed to be made or
 20 entered into by the Center;

21 “(B) may collect, by correspondence or by
 22 personal investigation, information relating to
 23 studies that are being carried out in the United
 24 States or any other country and, with the ap-
 25 proval of the Director of the Center, make such

1 information available through appropriate publi-
 2 cations; and

3 “(C) may appoint subcommittees and con-
 4 vene workshops and conferences.

5 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The advisory council shall
 7 be composed of the ex officio members described in
 8 paragraph (2) and not more than 18 individuals to
 9 be appointed by the Secretary under paragraph (3).

10 “(2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The ex officio
 11 members of the advisory council shall include—

12 “(A) the Secretary of Health and Human
 13 Services, the Director of NIH, the Director of
 14 the Center, the Chief Social Work Officer of the
 15 Veterans’ Administration, the Assistant Sec-
 16 retary of Defense for Health Affairs, the Asso-
 17 ciate Director of Prevention Research at the
 18 National Institute of Mental Health, the Direc-
 19 tor of the Division of Epidemiology and Serv-
 20 ices Research, the Assistant Secretary of
 21 Health and Human Services for the Adminis-
 22 tration for Children and Families, the Assistant
 23 Secretary of Education for the Office of Edu-
 24 cational Research and Improvement, the Assist-
 25 ant Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-

ment for Community Planning and Development, and the Assistant Attorney General for Office of Justice Programs (or the designees of such officers); and

“(B) such additional officers or employees of the United States as the Secretary determines necessary for the advisory council to effectively carry out its functions.

“(3) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—The Secretary shall appoint not to exceed 18 individuals to the advisory council, of which—

“(A) not more than two-thirds of such individual shall be appointed from among the leading representatives of the health and scientific disciplines (including public health and the behavioral or social sciences) relevant to the activities of the Center, and at least 7 such individuals shall be professional social workers who are recognized experts in the area of clinical practice, education, or research; and

“(B) not more than one-third of such individuals shall be appointed from the general public and shall include leaders in fields of public policy, law, health policy, economics, and management.

1 The Secretary shall make appointments to the advisory
2 council in such a manner as to ensure that the
3 terms of the members do not all expire in the same
4 year.

5 “(4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the advisory
6 council who are officers or employees of the
7 United States shall not receive any compensation for
8 service on the advisory council. The remaining mem-
9 bers shall receive, for each day (including travel
10 time) they are engaged in the performance of the
11 functions of the advisory council, compensation at
12 rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the max-
13 imum rate payable for a position at grade GS-15 of
14 the General Schedule.

15 “(c) TERMS.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of an in-
17 dividual appointed to the advisory council under sub-
18 section (b)(3) shall be 4 years, except that any indi-
19 vidual appointed to fill a vacancy on the advisory
20 council shall serve for the remainder of the unex-
21 pired term. A member may serve after the expiration
22 of the member’s term until a successor has been ap-
23 pointed.

24 “(2) REAPPOINTMENTS.—A member of the ad-
25 visory council who has been appointed under sub-

1 section (b)(3) for a term of 4 years may not be re-
2 appointed to the advisory council prior to the expira-
3 tion of the 2-year period beginning on the date on
4 which the prior term expired.

5 “(3) VACANCY.—If a vacancy occurs on the ad-
6 visory council among the members under subsection
7 (b)(3), the Secretary shall make an appointment to
8 fill that vacancy not later than 90 days after the
9 date on which the vacancy occurs.

10 “(d) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the advi-
11 sory council shall be selected by the Secretary from among
12 the members appointed under subsection (b)(3), except
13 that the Secretary may select the Director of the Center
14 to be the chairperson of the advisory council. The term
15 of office of the chairperson shall be 2 years.

16 “(e) MEETINGS.—The advisory council shall meet at
17 the call of the chairperson or upon the request of the Di-
18 rector of the Center, but not less than 3 times each fiscal
19 year. The location of the meetings of the advisory council
20 shall be subject to the approval of the Director of the Cen-
21 ter.

22 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—The Director of
23 the Center shall designate a member of the staff of the
24 Center to serve as the executive secretary of the advisory
25 council. The Director of the Center shall make available

1 to the advisory council such staff, information, and other
 2 assistance as the council may require to carry out its func-
 3 tions. The Director of the Center shall provide orientation
 4 and training for new members of the advisory council to
 5 provide such members with such information and training
 6 as may be appropriate for their effective participation in
 7 the functions of the advisory council.

8 “(g) COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The ad-
 9 visory council may prepare, for inclusion in the biennial
 10 report under section 485L—

11 “(1) comments with respect to the activities of
 12 the advisory council in the fiscal years for which the
 13 report is prepared;

14 “(2) comments on the progress of the Center in
 15 meeting its objectives; and

16 “(3) recommendations with respect to the fu-
 17 ture direction and program and policy emphasis of
 18 the center.

19 The advisory council may prepare such additional reports
 20 as it may determine appropriate.

21 **“SEC. 485L. BIENNIAL REPORT.**

22 “The Director of the Center, after consultation with
 23 the advisory council for the Center, shall prepare for inclu-
 24 sion in the biennial report under section 403, a biennial
 25 report that shall consist of a description of the activities

1 of the Center and program policies of the Director of the
2 Center in the fiscal years for which the report is prepared.
3 The Director of the Center may prepare such additional
4 reports as the Director determines appropriate. The Di-
5 rector of the Center shall provide the advisory council of
6 the Center an opportunity for the submission of the writ-
7 ten comments described in section 485K(g).

8 **“SEC. 485M. QUARTERLY REPORT.**

9 “The Director of the Center shall prepare and submit
10 to Congress a quarterly report that contains a summary
11 of findings and policy implications derived from research
12 conducted or supported through the Center.”.

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