

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2399

To establish a commission to recommend a strategy for the global eradication of disease.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 30, 1999

Mr. GEKAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To establish a commission to recommend a strategy for the global eradication of disease.

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 Commission
5 for the New National Goal: The Advancement of Global
6 Health Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

8 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) During the 20th century the United States
2 led the world in defeating totalitarianism and com-
3 munism.

4 (2) The United States also led the world in
5 spreading and establishing democracy in every re-
6 gion.

7 (3) The end of global conflict and the end of
8 the Cold War, now guaranteed by the power and
9 leadership of the United States, allow the Nation to
10 establish new goals for the 21st century.

11 (4) The United States, the world leader in the
12 research, development, and production of tech-
13 nologies, medicines, and methodologies utilized to
14 prevent and cure disease, has established a Center
15 for Vaccine Development at the National Institutes
16 of Health that could assist in the global control of
17 infectious diseases. Infectious disease is the number
18 one global health challenge killing 11 million people
19 globally and 180,000 people in the United States
20 and is the third leading cause of death in the United
21 States. The United States has the resources,
22 through the National Institutes of Health and the
23 National Science Foundation, to expand health re-
24 search information globally through the use of Inter-
25 net conferencing and dissemination of data.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT.**

2 There is established a commission to be known as the
3 “National Commission for the New National Goal: The
4 Advancement of Global Health” (in this Act referred to
5 as the “Commission”).

6 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

7 The Commission shall recommend to the Congress a
8 national strategy for coordinating governmental, aca-
9 demic, and public and private health care entities for the
10 purpose of the global eradication of disease. The Commis-
11 sion shall address how the United States may assist in
12 the global control of infectious diseases through the devel-
13 opment of vaccines and the sharing of health research in-
14 formation on the Internet.

15 **SEC. 5. MEMBERSHIP.**

16 (a) MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION.—The Com-
17 mission shall consist of individuals who are of recognized
18 standing and distinction and who possess the dem-
19 onstrated capacity to discharge the duties imposed on the
20 Commission, and shall include representatives of the pub-
21 lic, private, and academic areas whose capacity is based
22 on a special knowledge, such as computer sciences or the
23 use of the Internet for medical conferencing, or expertise
24 in medical research or related areas.

25 (b) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission
26 shall be composed of 15 members appointed as follows:

1 (1) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
2 ices (or the Secretary's delegate).

3 (2) The Chairman of the Federal Trade Com-
4 mission.

5 (3) The Director of the National Institutes of
6 Health.

7 (4) The Director of the National Science Foun-
8 dation.

9 (5) 3 Members of the Senate appointed jointly
10 by the President of the Senate and the President
11 pro tempore. Not more than 2 members appointed
12 under this paragraph may be of the same political
13 party.

14 (6) 3 Members of the House of Representatives
15 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Rep-
16 resentatives. Not more than 2 members appointed
17 under this paragraph may be of the same political
18 party.

19 (7) 2 individuals appointed by the President, by
20 and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from
21 among individuals who are not officers or employees
22 of any government and who are specially qualified to
23 serve on the Commission by virtue of their edu-
24 cation, training, or experience.

1 (8) 3 individuals appointed by the President
2 from among individuals who will represent the views
3 of recipients of health services. Not more than 1
4 member appointed under this paragraph may be an
5 officer or employee of the Federal Government.

6 (c) CONTINUATION OF MEMBERSHIP.—If a member
7 was appointed to the Commission as a Member of Con-
8 gress and the member ceases to be a Member of Congress,
9 that member may continue as a member for not longer
10 than the 30-day period beginning on the date that member
11 ceases to be a Member of Congress.

12 (d) TERMS.—Each member shall be appointed for the
13 life of the Commission.

14 (e) BASIC PAY.—Members shall serve without pay.

15 (f) QUORUM.—Nine members of the Commission
16 shall constitute a quorum but a lesser number may hold
17 hearings.

18 (g) CHAIRPERSON; VICE CHAIRPERSON.—The Chair-
19 person and Vice Chairperson of the Commission shall be
20 designated by the President at the time of the appoint-
21 ment.

22 (h) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall meet monthly
23 or at the call of a majority of its members.

1 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF COMMISSION.**

2 (a) HEARINGS AND SESSIONS.—The Commission
3 may, for the purpose of carrying out this Act, hold hear-
4 ings, sit and act at times and places, take testimony, and
5 receive evidence as the Commission considers appropriate.

6 (b) POWERS OF MEMBERS AND AGENTS.—Any mem-
7 ber or agent of the Commission may, if authorized by the
8 Commission, take any action which the Commission is au-
9 thorized to take by this section.

10 (c) OBTAINING OFFICIAL DATA.—The Commission
11 may secure directly from any department or agency of the
12 United States information necessary to enable it to carry
13 out this Act. Upon request of the Chairperson or Vice
14 Chairperson of the Commission, the head of that depart-
15 ment or agency shall furnish that information to the Com-
16 mission.

17 (d) GIFTS, BEQUESTS, AND DEVISES.—The Com-
18 mission may accept, use, and dispose of gifts, bequests,
19 or devises of services or property, both real and personal,
20 for the purpose of aiding or facilitating the work of the
21 Commission. Gifts, bequests, or devises of money and pro-
22 ceeds from sales of other property received as gifts, be-
23 quests, or devises shall be deposited in the Treasury and
24 shall be available for disbursement upon order of the
25 Chairperson or Commission. For purposes of Federal in-
26 come, estate, and gift taxes, property accepted under this

1 subsection shall be considered as a gift, bequest, or devise
2 to the United States.

3 (e) **MAILS.**—The Commission may use the United
4 States mails in the same manner and under the same con-
5 ditions as other departments and agencies of the United
6 States.

7 (f) **ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SERVICES.**—Upon the
8 request of the Commission, the Administrator of General
9 Services shall provide to the Commission, on a reimburs-
10 able basis, the administrative support services necessary
11 for the Commission to carry out its responsibilities under
12 this Act.

13 (g) **CONTRACT AUTHORITY.**—The Commission may
14 contract with and compensate government and private
15 agencies or persons for administrative and other services,
16 without regard to section 3709 of the Revised Statutes
17 (41 U.S.C. 5).

18 **SEC. 7. REPORTS.**

19 (a) **INTERIM REPORTS.**—The Commission may sub-
20 mit to the President and the Congress interim reports as
21 the Commission considers appropriate.

22 (b) **FINAL REPORT.**—The Commission shall transmit
23 a final report to the President and the Congress not later
24 than 12 months after the date of enactment of this Act.
25 The final report shall contain a detailed statement of the

1 findings and conclusions of the Commission, together with
2 its recommendations for legislative, administrative, or
3 other actions, as the Commission considers appropriate.

4 **SEC. 8. TERMINATION.**

5 The Commission shall terminate 30 days after sub-
6 mitting its final report pursuant to section 7.

7 **SEC. 9. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 This Act shall take effect 60 days after the date of
9 its enactment.

10 **SEC. 10. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

11 There are authorized to be appropriated not to exceed
12 \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2000 for the National Institutes
13 of Health to carry out coordination activities under this
14 Act with the Commission, the National Science Founda-
15 tion, and other appropriate groups to transfer health re-
16 search information on the Internet and to transfer the
17 benefits of the infectious disease vaccine development pro-
18 gram.

19 **SEC. 11. BUDGET ACT COMPLIANCE.**

20 Any spending authority (as defined in subparagraphs
21 (A) and (C) of section 401(e)(2) of the Congressional
22 Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 651(e)(2)(A) and (C))) au-
23 thorized by this Act shall be effective only to such extent

1 and in such amounts as are provided in appropriation
2 Acts.

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