

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1723

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 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2001

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

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 2001”.

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 million women in the
8 United States are living with breast cancer: 2 million
9 who have been diagnosed and an estimated 1 million
10 who do not yet know they have the disease.

11 (3) Breast cancer is the most commonly diag-
12 nosed cancer among women in the United States
13 and worldwide (excluding skin cancer). In 2001, it
14 is estimated that 233,000 new cases of breast cancer
15 will be diagnosed among women in the United
16 States: 192,000 invasive breast cancer and 40,800
17 cases of ductal carcinoma in situ (DCIS).

18 (4) Breast cancer is the second leading cause of
19 breast cancer death for women in the United States;
20 approximately 40,000 women in the U.S. die from
21 the disease each year. Breast cancer is the leading
22 cause of cancer death for U.S. women between the
23 ages of 20 and 59, and the leading cause of cancer
24 death for women worldwide.

25 (5) A woman in the United States has a 1 in
26 8 chance of developing invasive breast cancer in her

1 lifetime—this risk was 1 in 11 in 1975. In 2001, a
2 new case of breast cancer will be diagnosed every 2
3 minutes, and a woman will die from breast cancer
4 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 order to take full advantage of the tre-
20 mendous potential for avenues of prevention, the
21 Federal investment in the role of the environment
22 and the development of breast cancer should be ex-
23 panded.

24 (10) In order to understand the effect of chemi-
25 cals and radiation on the development of cancer,

1 multi-generational, prospective studies are probably
2 required.

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

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

11 **“SEC. 463B. RESEARCH CENTERS REGARDING ENVIRON-**
12 **MENTAL FACTORS RELATED TO BREAST CAN-**
13 **CER.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Institute,
15 based on recommendations from the Breast Cancer and
16 Environmental Research Advisory Panel (hereafter in this
17 section referred to as the ‘Panel’), shall make grants, after
18 a process of peer review and programmatic review, to pub-
19 lic or nonprofit private entities for the development and
20 operation of not more than 8 centers for the purpose of
21 conducting multidisciplinary and multi-institutional re-
22 search on environmental factors that may be related to
23 the etiology of breast cancer. Each such center shall be
24 known as a Breast Cancer and Environmental Research
25 Center of Excellence. The Panel shall oversee the peer re-

1 view process and shall conduct a programmatic review.
2 The Panel will recommend the funding criteria and mech-
3 anisms by which the grant funds shall be allocated. The
4 Panel shall make final programmatic recommendations on
5 allocation of grant funds.

6 “(b) BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RE-
7 SEARCH ADVISORY PANEL.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
9 lish in the Institute of Environmental Health
10 Sciences the Breast Cancer and Environmental Re-
11 search Panel (hereafter in this section individually
12 referred to as the ‘Panel’).

13 “(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Panel shall be com-
14 posed of nine appointed members and nonvoting ex
15 officio members. The Secretary shall appoint—

16 “(A) six members from physicians, and
17 other health professionals, who are not officers
18 or employees of the United States, and who
19 represent multiple disciplines, including clinical,
20 basic and public health sciences, and also dif-
21 ferent geographical regions of the country, indi-
22 viduals shall come from practice settings as well
23 as academia and other research settings. Panel
24 members should be experienced in biomedical
25 review; and

1 “(B) three members from the general pub-
2 lic who are consumer representatives who have
3 had breast cancer and who represent a constitu-
4 ency.

5 “(3) CHAIR.—The members of the Panel shall
6 select a chairman from among the appointed mem-
7 bers.

8 “(4) MEETINGS.—The Panel shall meet at the
9 call of the chairman or upon the request of the Di-
10 rector of the Institute, but not less often than once
11 a year.

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

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

24 “(e) REQUIRED CONSORTIUM.—Each center under
25 subsection (a) shall be formed from a consortium of co-

1 operating institutions, meeting such requirements as may
2 be prescribed by the Director of the Institute. Each center
3 must require collaboration among highly accomplished sci-
4 entists, other health professionals and advocates of diverse
5 backgrounds from various areas of expertise.

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

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

19 “(h) INNOVATIVE APPROACHES.—Centers shall use
20 innovative approaches to study unexplored or under ex-
21 plored areas of the environment and breast cancer.

22 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the
23 purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized
24 to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years
25 2002 through 2007. Such authorization is in addition to

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

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