

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 46

To amend title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to raise awareness of eating disorders and to create educational programs concerning the same, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 3, 2001

Mrs. BIGGERT introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend title VI of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to raise awareness of eating disorders and to create educational programs concerning the same, and for other purposes.

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 “Eating Disorders
5 Awareness, Prevention, and Education Act of 2001”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

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1 (1) An estimated 5,000,000 to 10,000,000
2 women and girls and 1,000,000 men and boys suffer
3 from eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa,
4 bulimia nervosa, and binge eating disorder, as well
5 as eating disorders that are not otherwise defined.

6 (2) 42 percent of 1st through 3d grade girls
7 want to be thinner and that 81 percent of 10-year-
8 old children are afraid of being fat.

9 (3) 35 percent of dieters progress to patholog-
10 ical dieting and that 20 to 25 percent of these indi-
11 viduals progress to partial or full syndrome eating
12 disorders.

13 (4) Eating disorders can lead to death. Accord-
14 ing to the National Institute of Mental Health, 1 in
15 10 people with anorexia nervosa will die of starva-
16 tion, cardiac arrest, or other medical complications.

17 (5) Eating disorders can have a negative impact
18 on the educational advancement of a student, a situ-
19 ation often overlooked and rarely addressed in our
20 Nation's schools.

21 (6) Educational efforts to prevent eating dis-
22 orders are of primary importance to the health, well
23 being and academic success of our Nation's stu-
24 dents.

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

2 The purposes of this Act are the following:

3 (1) To provide States, local school districts, and
4 parents with the means and flexibility to improve
5 awareness of, identify, and help students with eating
6 disorders.

7 (2) To help ensure that such individuals receive
8 a quality education and secure their chance for a
9 bright future.

10 **SEC. 4. INNOVATIVE ASSISTANCE FOR THE IDENTIFICA-**
11 **TION OF, TRAINING ON, AND EDUCATIONAL**
12 **AWARENESS OF EATING DISORDERS.**

13 Section 6301(a) of the Elementary and Secondary
14 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7351(a)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (8), by striking “and” after
16 the semicolon;

17 (2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period and
18 inserting “; and”; and

19 (3) by adding after paragraph (9) the following:

20 “(10) programs to improve the identification of
21 students with eating disorders, increase awareness of
22 such disorders among parents and students, and
23 train educators (such as teachers, school nurses,
24 school social workers, coaches, school counselors,
25 and administrators) on effective eating disorder pre-
26 vention and assistance methods.”.

1 **SEC. 5. PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.**

2 The Secretary of Education, in consultation with the
3 Secretary of Health and Human Services and the National
4 Institutes of Health, shall carry out a program to develop,
5 distribute, and promote the broadcasting of public service
6 announcements to improve public awareness, and to pro-
7 mote the identification and prevention, of eating disorders.

8 **SEC. 6. EATING DISORDER RESEARCH AND REPORT.**

9 Not later than 18 months after the enactment of this
10 Act, the National Center for Education Statistics and the
11 National Center for Health Statistics shall conduct a
12 study on the impact eating disorders have on educational
13 advancement and achievement. The study shall—

14 (1) evaluate the extent to which students with
15 eating disorders are more likely to miss school, have
16 delayed rates of development, or have reduced cog-
17 nitive skills;

18 (2) report on current State and local programs
19 to educate youth about the dangers of eating dis-
20 orders, as well as evaluate the value of such pro-
21 grams; and

22 (3) make recommendations on measures that
23 could be undertaken by Congress, the Department of
24 Education, States, and local educational agencies to

- 1 strengthen eating disorder prevention and awareness
- 2 programs.

