

107TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2203

To provide grants for mental health and substance abuse services for women and children who have been victims of domestic or sexual violence.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2002

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself and Mrs. MURRAY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide grants for mental health and substance abuse services for women and children who have been victims of domestic or sexual violence.

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 “Counseling in Shelters
5 Act of 2002”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Nearly $\frac{1}{3}$ of American women report being
2 physically or sexually abused by a husband or boy-
3 friend at some point in their lives.

4 (2) Fifty-six percent of women who experience
5 any partner violence are diagnosed with a psy-
6 chiatric disorder. Twenty-nine percent of all women
7 who attempt suicide were battered, 37 percent of
8 battered women have symptoms of depression, 46
9 percent have symptoms of anxiety disorder, and 45
10 percent experience post-traumatic stress disorder.

11 (3) Children who witness domestic violence are
12 more likely to exhibit behavioral and physical health
13 problems including depression, anxiety, and violence
14 toward peers. They are also more likely to attempt
15 suicide, abuse drugs and alcohol, run away from
16 home, engage in teenage prostitution, and commit
17 sexual assault crimes.

18 (4) Each year, at least 6 percent of all preg-
19 nant women, equal to about 240,000 pregnant
20 women, are battered by the men in their lives.

21 (5) Complications of pregnancy, including low
22 weight gain, anemia, and first and second trimester
23 bleeding are significantly higher for abused women,
24 as are maternal rates of depression, suicide at-
25 tempts, tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drug use.

1 (6) A major domestic violence program in St.
2 Petersburg, Florida, reports that 70 percent of the
3 families that come to their shelter have substance
4 abuse in their family—either the woman, her chil-
5 dren, or her batterer. One study of a low-income
6 Chicago neighborhood found that 42 percent of
7 women experiencing severe abuse in the past 12
8 months reported depression.

9 **SEC. 3. SHELTER GRANTS.**

10 (a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
12 Human Services (in this section referred to as the
13 “Secretary”), acting through the Assistant Secretary
14 for the Administration on Children, Youth, and
15 Families, shall make grants to eligible entities for
16 the purpose of providing on site mental health and
17 substance abuse counseling and referral services.

18 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this sec-
19 tion the term “eligible entity” means a public or
20 nonprofit private domestic or sexual violence pro-
21 gram or other community-based entity including an
22 Indian tribe or tribal organization that primarily
23 serves victims of domestic violence.

1 (3) DURATION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary
2 shall award grants under this section for a period
3 not to exceed 5 years. Such grants may be renewed.

4 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity awarded a grant pur-
5 suant to subsection (a) shall—

6 (1) hire licensed professionals to provide on site
7 mental health and substance abuse counseling to
8 women and children who have been subjected to do-
9 mestic or sexual violence;

10 (2) hire dedicated staff qualified to coordinate
11 the mental health and substance abuse services for
12 victims of domestic and sexual violence and their
13 children including linking them with more com-
14 prehensive treatment programs in their local com-
15 munities; and

16 (3) provide training in the dynamics of domes-
17 tic violence and sexual assault, including safety risk,
18 potential lethality, and appropriate interventions, to
19 those mental health and substance abuse profes-
20 sionals hired to provide services to these women and
21 their children.

22 (c) APPLICATION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each eligible entity that de-
24 sires to receive a grant under this section shall sub-
25 mit to the Secretary an application at such time, in

1 such manner, and containing such information as
2 the Secretary may require.

3 (2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
4 pursuant to paragraph (1) shall contain a plan for
5 the rigorous evaluation of the activities funded under
6 this section, including process and outcome evalua-
7 tion, and the submission of an evaluation at the end
8 of the project period.

9 (d) GRANTMAKING CONSIDERATIONS.— The Sec-
10 retary, in awarding grants under this section shall—

11 (1) ensure that such grants are distributed eq-
12 uitably among the regions of the country and among
13 urban and rural areas; and

14 (2) give preference to applicants with strong
15 ties to minority communities and those that dem-
16 onstrate high levels of cultural competence.

17 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, acting
18 through the Assistant Secretary for the Administration on
19 Children, Youth, and Families, shall provide technical as-
20 sistance to grant recipients with respect to the implemen-
21 tation of programs to provide on site mental health and
22 substance abuse counseling and referral services.

23 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
24 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

- 1 \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2003, and such sums as may
- 2 be necessary for succeeding fiscal years.

