

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2157

To provide for uterine fibroid research and education, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2003

Mrs. JONES of Ohio introduced the following bill; which was referred to the  
Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To provide for uterine fibroid research and education, 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 “Uterine Fibroid Re-  
5 search and Education Act of 2003”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The development of uterine fibroids is a  
9 common and significant health problem, affecting  
10 women of all ages, racial backgrounds, and socio-  
11 economic levels.

1           (2) It has been estimated that between 20 and  
2           30 percent of women of reproductive age have uter-  
3           ine fibroids, though not all have been diagnosed.  
4           Studies indicate the prevalence could be much high-  
5           er.

6           (3) Symptomatic uterine fibroids can cause  
7           heavy bleeding, pain, and reproductive problems, in-  
8           cluding infertility. There is no known cause of uter-  
9           ine fibroids.

10          (4) Uterine fibroids are the most common indi-  
11          cation for hysterectomy, accounting for approxi-  
12          mately one-third of hysterectomies, or 200,000 pro-  
13          cedures annually.

14          (5) African American women are 2 to 3 times  
15          more likely to develop uterine fibroids than women  
16          of other racial groups.

17          (6) The estimated annual charges for inpatient  
18          care for uterine fibroids totaled more than  
19          \$2,000,000,000 in 1997.

20          (7) The Agency for Healthcare Research and  
21          Quality found a “remarkable lack of high quality  
22          evidence supporting the effectiveness of most inter-  
23          ventions for symptomatic fibroids”.

1 **SEC. 3. RESEARCH WITH RESPECT TO UTERINE FIBROIDS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National In-  
3 stitutes of Health (in this section referred to as the “Di-  
4 rector of NIH”) shall expand, intensify, and coordinate  
5 programs for the conduct and support of research with  
6 respect to uterine fibroids.

7 (b) ADMINISTRATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of NIH shall  
9 carry out this section through the appropriate insti-  
10 tutes, offices, and centers, including the National In-  
11 stitute of Child Health and Human Development,  
12 the National Institute of Environmental Health  
13 Sciences, the Office of Research on Women’s Health,  
14 the National Center on Minority Health and Health  
15 Disparities, and any other agencies that the Director  
16 of NIH determines to be appropriate.

17 (2) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Office  
18 of Research on Women’s Health shall coordinate ac-  
19 tivities under paragraph (1) among the institutes,  
20 offices, and centers of the National Institutes of  
21 Health.

22 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
23 purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
24 to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for each of the fiscal years  
25 2004 through 2008.

1 **SEC. 4. INFORMATION AND EDUCATION WITH RESPECT TO**  
2 **UTERINE FIBROIDS.**

3 (a) UTERINE FIBROIDS PUBLIC EDUCATION PRO-  
4 GRAM.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
6 Human Services (referred to in this section as the  
7 “Secretary”), acting through the Director of the  
8 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall  
9 develop and disseminate to the public information  
10 regarding uterine fibroids, including information  
11 on—

12 (A) the incidence and prevalence of uterine  
13 fibroids;

14 (B) the elevated risk for minority women;  
15 and

16 (C) the availability, as medically appro-  
17 priate, of a range of treatment options for  
18 symptomatic uterine fibroids.

19 (2) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary may dis-  
20 seminate information under paragraph (1) directly,  
21 or through arrangements with nonprofit organiza-  
22 tions, consumer groups, institutions of higher edu-  
23 cation (as defined in section 101 of the Higher Edu-  
24 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)), Federal,  
25 State, or local agencies, or the media.

1           (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For  
2           the purpose of carrying out this subsection, there  
3           are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may  
4           be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2004  
5           through 2008.

6           (b) UTERINE FIBROIDS INFORMATION PROGRAM FOR  
7 HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting  
9           through the Administrator of the Health Resources  
10          and Services Administration, shall develop and dis-  
11          seminate to health care providers information on  
12          uterine fibroids, including information on the ele-  
13          vated risk for minority women and the range of  
14          available options for the treatment of symptomatic  
15          uterine fibroids.

16          (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For  
17          the purpose of carrying out this subsection, there  
18          are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may  
19          be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2004  
20          through 2008.

21          (c) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
22          term “minority”, with respect to women, means women  
23          who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups with-

1 in the meaning of section 1707 of the Public Health Serv-  
2 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6).

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