

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 873

To amend title V 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

FEBRUARY 25, 2003

Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself and Mr. STRICKLAND) 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 V 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 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

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

8 (2) Anorexia Nervosa is an eating disorder
9 characterized by self-starvation and excessive weight
10 loss.

11 (3) An estimated .5 to 3.7 percent of American
12 women will suffer from anorexia nervosa in their
13 lifetime.

14 (4) Anorexia Nervosa is associated with serious
15 health consequences including heart failure, kidney
16 failure, osteoporosis, and death.

17 (5) Anorexia Nervosa has the highest mortality
18 rate of all psychiatric disorders. A young woman is
19 12 times more likely to die than other women her
20 age without Anorexia.

21 (6) Bulimia Nervosa is an eating disorder char-
22 acterized by excessive food consumption followed by
23 inappropriate compensatory behaviors, such as self-
24 induced vomiting, misuse of laxatives, fasting, or ex-
25 cessive exercise.

1 (7) Bulimia Nervosa is common: an estimated
2 1.1 to 4.2 percent of American women will suffer
3 from this disorder in their lifetime.

4 (8) Bulimia Nervosa is associated with cardiac,
5 gastrointestinal, and dental problems including ir-
6 regular heartbeats, gastric rupture, peptic ulcer, and
7 tooth decay.

8 (9) Binge Eating Disorder is characterized by
9 frequent episodes of uncontrolled overeating.

10 (10) Binge Eating Disorder is common: an esti-
11 mated 2 to 5 percent of Americans experience this
12 disorder in a 6-month period.

13 (11) Binge Eating is associated with obesity,
14 heart disease, gall bladder disease, and diabetes.

15 (12) Eating disorders usually appear in adoles-
16 cence and are associated with substantial psycho-
17 logical problems, including depression, substance
18 abuse, and suicide.

19 (13) Forty-two percent of 1st through 3d grade
20 girls want to be thinner, and 81 percent of 10-year-
21 old children are afraid of being fat.

22 (14) Thirty-five percent of dieters progress to
23 pathological dieting, and 20 to 25 percent of these
24 individuals progress to partial or full syndrome eat-
25 ing disorders.

1 (15) Eating disorders can lead to death. Ac-
2 cording to the National Institute of Mental Health,
3 1 in 10 people with anorexia nervosa will die of star-
4 vation, cardiac arrest, or other medical complica-
5 tions.

6 (16) Eating disorders can have a negative im-
7 pact on the educational advancement of a student,
8 a situation often overlooked and rarely addressed in
9 our Nation's schools.

10 (17) Educational efforts to prevent eating dis-
11 orders are of primary importance to the health, well
12 being and academic success of our Nation's stu-
13 dents.

14 (18) Females are much more likely than males
15 to develop an eating disorder. An estimated 5 to 15
16 percent of people with anorexia or bulimia and an
17 estimated 35 percent of people with binge-eating dis-
18 order are male.

19 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

20 The purposes of this Act are the following:

21 (1) To provide States, local school districts, and
22 parents with the means and flexibility to improve
23 awareness of, identify, and help students with eating
24 disorders.

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

2 Not later than 18 months after the enactment of this
3 Act, the National Center for Education Statistics and the
4 National Center for Health Statistics shall conduct a
5 study on the impact eating disorders have on educational
6 advancement and achievement. The study shall—

7 (1) determine the prevalence of eating disorders
8 among students and the morbidity and mortality
9 rates associated with eating disorders;

10 (2) evaluate the extent to which students with
11 eating disorders are more likely to miss school, have
12 delayed rates of development, or have reduced cog-
13 nitive skills;

14 (3) report on current State and local programs
15 to educate youth about the dangers of eating dis-
16 orders, as well as evaluate the value of such pro-
17 grams; and

18 (4) make recommendations on measures that
19 could be undertaken by Congress, the Department of
20 Education, States, and local educational agencies to
21 strengthen eating disorder prevention and awareness
22 programs.

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