

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3187

To amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to understand and comprehensively address the inmate oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 26, 2007

Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. ROSS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. CARSON, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. FARR, Mr. DICKS, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. RAMSTAD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to understand and comprehensively address the inmate oral health problems associated with methamphetamine use, 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 “Meth Mouth Correc-  
5 tional Costs and Reentry Support Act”.

### 6 **SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

7 The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.  
 Sec. 2. Table of contents.  
 Sec. 3. Findings; purpose; definitions.  
 Sec. 4. Inclusion of oral health and dental care inmate and probationer statistics.  
 Sec. 5. Study of methamphetamine-related oral health costs in jails and prisons.  
 Sec. 6. Interim assistance for correctional dental programs.  
 Sec. 7. Grants for dental care offender reentry projects.

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS; PURPOSE; DEFINITIONS.**

2 (a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) One of the unexpected results of the meth-  
 4 amphetamine epidemic has been prisoners' need for  
 5 costly dental care. By some accounts, more than 30  
 6 percent of prison inmates suffer from meth mouth  
 7 and about 40 percent of correctional dental spending  
 8 goes toward repairing or removing teeth ravaged by  
 9 methamphetamine use.

10 (2) Every year some 600,000 inmates are re-  
 11 leased from Federal and State prisons and return to  
 12 their communities and families.

13 (3) Ex-offenders who are healthy have greater  
 14 success in reintegrating into the community and  
 15 avoiding incarceration.

16 (4) There have been few published studies (and  
 17 virtually no routine data collections) that adequately  
 18 characterize the oral health of inmates and the pro-  
 19 vision of dental care in correctional facilities. In fact,  
 20 the absence of peer-reviewed literature has resulted

1 in the perpetual underfunding and understaffing of  
2 correctional dental care programs.

3 (b) PURPOSE.—The purposes of this Act are to—

4 (1) investigate and report on the oral health of  
5 inmates of correctional facilities and on the provision  
6 of dental care in such facilities;

7 (2) temporarily sustain dental programs in cor-  
8 rectional facilities that have been suddenly and dis-  
9 proportionately taxed by the prevalence and severity  
10 of inmate meth mouth;

11 (3) ensure that oral health and dental care are  
12 accounted for in the Department of Justice’s pris-  
13 oner reentry initiatives; and

14 (c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this Act:

15 (1) CORRECTIONAL FACILITY; DETENTION FA-  
16 CILITY.—The terms “correctional facility” and “de-  
17 tention facility” mean any place for the confinement  
18 or rehabilitation of offenders or individuals charged  
19 with or convicted of criminal offenses.

20 (2) INMATE.—The term “inmate” means any  
21 person who is incarcerated or detained in any correc-  
22 tional facility and who is accused of, convicted of,  
23 sentenced for, or adjudicated delinquent for, viola-  
24 tions of criminal law or the terms and conditions of

1 parole, probation, pretrial release, or a diversionary  
2 program.

3 (3) METH MOUTH.—The term “meth mouth”  
4 means a distinct and often severe pattern of oral  
5 decay that is commonly associated with meth-  
6 amphetamine use.

7 (4) OFFENDER REENTRY.—The term “offender  
8 reentry” means the process of returning individuals  
9 to society after a period of incarceration in a prison,  
10 jail, or other detention facility.

11 **SEC. 4. INCLUSION OF ORAL HEALTH AND DENTAL CARE**

12 **INMATE AND PROBATIONER STATISTICS.**

13 Part C of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and  
14 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) is  
15 amended by adding at the end the following new section:

16 **“SEC. 305. JUSTICE STATISTICS TO INCLUDE DATA ON PRO-  
17 VISION OF DENTAL CARE.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—In collecting, compiling, ana-  
19 lyzing, publishing, and disseminating justice statistics re-  
20 lating to the operation of the criminal justice system under  
21 this part, the Director of the Bureau of Justice Statistics  
22 shall include and take into account data characterizing the  
23 oral health of inmates of correctional facilities and the  
24 provision of dental care in correctional facilities. Such data  
25 shall address at least the following information:

1           “(1) The prevalence in such facilities of inmate  
2           dental caries (tooth decay), periodontal diseases, and  
3           other conditions affecting the teeth, gums, and  
4           mouth or affecting the proper function thereof.

5           “(2) The types of therapies used in such facili-  
6           ties to diagnose, cure, mitigate, treat, or prevent the  
7           onset of the conditions described in paragraph (1).

8           “(3) The presentable oral condition of inmates  
9           at the time of release of the inmates from such fa-  
10          cilities (as would likely be observed by an individual  
11          who is not an oral health professional).

12          “(4) The size and disposition of inmate dental  
13          programs and program budgets, including the num-  
14          ber of dentists and allied oral health professionals on  
15          staff, under contract, or otherwise used to furnish  
16          inmate dental care.

17          “(b) USE OF DATA.—The Director may request and  
18          use such information, data, and reports from any Federal,  
19          State, local, or private entity, as may be required to carry  
20          out subsection (a). Such information, data, and reports  
21          may be used only with prior written consent from the Fed-  
22          eral, State, local, or private entity involved.”.

1 **SEC. 5. STUDY OF METHAMPHETAMINE-RELATED ORAL**  
2 **HEALTH COSTS IN JAILS AND PRISONS.**

3 (a) STUDY.—In carrying out section 305 of the Om-  
4 nibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42  
5 U.S.C. 3737 et seq.), as added by section 4, the Attorney  
6 General, acting through the Director of the Bureau of  
7 Justice Statistics, shall conduct a study to determine the  
8 extent to which methamphetamine use affects the demand  
9 for (and provision of) oral health care in correctional fa-  
10 cilities.

11 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
12 of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Bureau  
13 of Justice Statistics shall publish a report detailing the  
14 results of the study under subsection (a). Such report shall  
15 include the following information:

16 (1) The prevalence and severity of inmate oral  
17 health problems believed to be associated with meth-  
18 amphetamine use.

19 (2) The criteria most commonly used to deter-  
20 mine whether an inmate's oral health problems are  
21 associated with methamphetamine use.

22 (3) The therapies most commonly used to treat  
23 inmate meth mouth.

24 (4) The clinical prognosis for inmates who re-  
25 ceived care for meth mouth.

1           (5) The financial impact of meth mouth on  
2       Federal, State, and local corrections budgets.

3           (6) The efficacy of oral health care programs  
4       designed to address meth mouth.

5       (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
6       authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
7       \$1,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2009 through  
8       2011. Amounts authorized for appropriation under this  
9       subsection are in addition to any other amounts author-  
10      ized for appropriation for such purpose.

11   **SEC. 6. INTERIM ASSISTANCE FOR CORRECTIONAL DENTAL**  
12                           **PROGRAMS.**

13       Part A of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and  
14       Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) is  
15       amended by adding at the end the following new section:

16   **“SEC. 110. INTERIM ASSISTANCE GRANTS FOR CORREC-**  
17                           **TIONAL DENTAL PROGRAMS.**

18       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Attorney General  
19       shall make grants to States and local, territorial, and trib-  
20       al units of government, for the purpose of developing, en-  
21       hancing, or otherwise sustaining dental programs that  
22       provide for the oral health of jail and prison inmates.

23       “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

24               “(1) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for grants  
25       under this section, an entity shall prepare and sub-

1 mit an application at such time, in such manner,  
2 and containing such information as the Assistant  
3 Attorney General may require.

4 “(2) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under  
5 this section, the Assistant Attorney General shall  
6 give preference to applicants that demonstrate a  
7 compelling need for financial assistance due to the  
8 prevalence and severity of inmate meth mouth.

9 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts awarded under this  
10 section may be used—

11 “(1) to recruit, hire, or otherwise secure the  
12 services of dentists, allied dental personnel, and  
13 other oral health professionals;

14 “(2) to rent, purchase, or otherwise secure den-  
15 tal instruments, equipment, and supplies;

16 “(3) to survey, document, and report on—

17 “(A) the prevalence and severity of inmate  
18 oral health problems believed to be associated  
19 with methamphetamine use;

20 “(B) the criteria most commonly used to  
21 determine whether an inmate’s oral health  
22 problems are associated with methamphetamine  
23 use;

24 “(C) the therapies most commonly used to  
25 treat inmates with meth mouth;



1           “(D) the prognosis for inmates who re-  
2           ceived care for meth mouth; and

3           “(E) the financial impact of meth mouth  
4           on State and local corrections budgets; and

5           “(4) to support other activities deemed appro-  
6           priate by the Assistant Attorney General.

7           “(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—The Federal share  
8           of a grant received under this section may not exceed 50  
9           percent of the total costs of the activity funded by such  
10          grant.

11          “(e) COORDINATION OF ACTIVITIES.—The Assistant  
12          Attorney General may enter into contracts or agreements  
13          with other Federal agencies, including interagency agree-  
14          ments to delegate authority for the execution of grants  
15          and for such other activities as may be necessary to carry  
16          out this section.

17          “(f) METH MOUTH DEFINED.—For purposes of this  
18          section, the term ‘meth mouth’ means a distinct and often  
19          severe pattern of oral decay that is commonly associated  
20          with methamphetamine use.

21          “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
22          is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out  
23          this section for each of the fiscal years 2009 through  
24          2011. Amounts authorized for appropriation under this

1 subsection are in addition to any other amounts author-  
2 ized for appropriation for such purpose.”.

3 **SEC. 7. GRANTS FOR DENTAL CARE OFFENDER REENTRY**  
4 **PROJECTS.**

5 Part FF of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and  
6 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797w et seq.) is  
7 amended by adding at the end the following new section:  
8 **“SEC. 2978. GRANTS FOR DENTAL CARE OFFENDER RE-**  
9 **ENTRY PROJECTS.**

10 “(a) GRANT AUTHORIZATION.—The Attorney Gen-  
11 eral shall make grants to State, local, territorial, and trib-  
12 al units of government to identify, eliminate, and report  
13 on the degree to which poor oral health undermines or  
14 otherwise impedes an inmate’s successful transition to a  
15 stable, productive, and law-abiding life following his or her  
16 release from jail or prison.

17 “(b) REENTRY DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS PER-  
18 MITTED.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Attorney  
19 General is authorized to make grants to entities described  
20 in such subsection to establish adult and juvenile offender  
21 reentry demonstration projects for the purpose of—

22 “(1) developing and implementing dental treat-  
23 ment programs at correctional and detention facili-  
24 ties in which inmates are incarcerated for a period  
25 of time to permit or require emergency dental care;

1           “(2) evaluating the degree to which an inmate’s  
2           presentable oral condition at the time of his or her  
3           release facilities the transition of such an inmate to  
4           stable, productive, and law-abiding life;

5           “(3) promoting good oral hygiene among in-  
6           mates and encouraging inmates to obtain regular  
7           dental check-ups after their release;

8           “(4) monitoring an inmate’s compliance with  
9           post-release treatment instructions and oral hygiene  
10          protocols; and

11          “(5) supporting other activities deemed appro-  
12          priate by the Attorney General.

13          “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
14          is authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 to carry out  
15          this section for each of the fiscal years 2009 through  
16          2011.”.

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