

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 579

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 14, 2007

Mr. REID (for himself, Mr. HATCH, Mrs. CLINTON, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. WARNER, Mr. FEINGOLD, Mr. BIDEN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. REED, Mr. LEAHY, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Director of the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to make grants for the development and operation of research centers regarding environmental factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer.

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 “Breast Cancer and  
5       Environmental Research Act of 2007”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH; AWARDS FOR**  
2 **DEVELOPMENT AND OPERATION OF RE-**  
3 **SEARCH CENTERS REGARDING ENVIRON-**  
4 **MENTAL FACTORS RELATED TO BREAST CAN-**  
5 **CER.**

6 Part A of title IV of the Public Health Service Act  
7 (42 U.S.C. 281 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
8 the following:

9 **“SEC. 404H. RESEARCH CENTERS REGARDING ENVIRON-**  
10 **MENTAL FACTORS RELATED TO BREAST CAN-**  
11 **CER.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
13 the Director of NIH, based on recommendations from the  
14 Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Panel estab-  
15 lished under subsection (b) (referred to in this section as  
16 the ‘Panel’), shall make grants to public or nonprofit pri-  
17 vate entities for the development and operation of collabo-  
18 rative, multi-institutional centers for the purpose of con-  
19 ducting multidisciplinary and multi-institutional research  
20 on environmental factors that may be related to the eti-  
21 ology of breast cancer. Each such center shall be known  
22 as a Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Center  
23 of Excellence.

24 “(b) BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL RE-  
25 SEARCH PANEL.—

1           “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall es-  
2           tablish within the National Institutes of Health a  
3           Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Panel.

4           “(2) COMPOSITION.—The Panel shall be com-  
5           posed of—

6                   “(A) 9 members to be appointed by the  
7           Secretary, of which—

8                           “(i) six members shall be appointed  
9                           from among physicians and other health  
10                          professionals, who—

11                                   “(I) are not officers or employees  
12                                   of the United States;

13                                   “(II) represent multiple dis-  
14                                   ciplines, including clinical, basic, and  
15                                   public health sciences;

16                                   “(III) represent different geo-  
17                                   graphical regions of the United  
18                                   States;

19                                   “(IV) are from practice settings,  
20                                   academia, or other research settings;  
21                                   and

22                                   “(V) are experienced in peer re-  
23                                   view; and

24                                   “(ii) three members shall be appointed  
25                                   from the general public who are represent-

1           atives of individuals who have had breast  
2           cancer and who represent a constituency;  
3           and

4           “(B) such nonvoting, ex officio members as  
5           the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

6           “(3) CHAIRPERSON.—The members of the  
7           Panel appointed under paragraph (2)(A) shall select  
8           a chairperson from among such members.

9           “(4) MEETINGS.—The Panel shall meet at the  
10          call of the chairperson or upon the request of the  
11          Director of NIH, but in no case less often than once  
12          each year.

13          “(5) DUTIES.—The Panel shall—

14                 “(A) develop a comprehensive strategy con-  
15                 cerning collaborative centers that would—

16                         “(i) result in innovative approaches to  
17                         study unexplored or underexplored areas of  
18                         the environment and breast cancer;

19                         “(ii) outline key research questions,  
20                         methodologies, and knowledge gaps con-  
21                         cerning environmental factors that may be  
22                         related to the etiology of breast cancer;

23                         “(iii) outline key issues concerning en-  
24                         vironmental factors that may be related to  
25                         the etiology of breast cancer; and

1                   “(iv) result in an overall strategy to  
2                   address environmental factors related to  
3                   breast cancer;

4                   “(B) make recommendations to the Sec-  
5                   retary with respect to the mechanisms, peer re-  
6                   view criteria, and allocations under this section;

7                   “(C) assist in the overall program evalua-  
8                   tion; and

9                   “(D) make recommendations for the dis-  
10                  semination of information on program process.

11               “(c) COLLABORATION WITH COMMUNITY.—Each  
12               center under subsection (a) shall include community orga-  
13               nizations in the geographic area served by the center, in-  
14               cluding those that represent women with breast cancer,  
15               as integral collaborators involved at all levels of the deci-  
16               sion-making and research in such center.

17               “(d) COORDINATION OF CENTERS; REPORTS.—The  
18               Director of NIH shall, as appropriate, provide for the co-  
19               ordination of information among centers under subsection  
20               (a) and ensure regular communication between such cen-  
21               ters, and may require the periodic preparation of reports  
22               on the activities of the centers and the submission of the  
23               reports to the Director.

24               “(e) REQUIRED CONSORTIUM.—Each center under  
25               subsection (a) shall be formed from a consortium of co-

1 operating institutions and community groups, meeting  
2 such requirements as may be prescribed by the Director  
3 of NIH. Each center shall require collaboration among  
4 highly accomplished scientists, other health professionals  
5 and advocates of diverse backgrounds from various areas  
6 of expertise.

7       “(f) DURATION OF SUPPORT.—Support of a center  
8 under subsection (a) may be for a period not exceeding  
9 5 years. Such period may be extended for one or more  
10 additional periods not exceeding 5 years if the operations  
11 of such center have been reviewed by an appropriate tech-  
12 nical and scientific peer review group established by the  
13 Director of NIH and if such group has recommended to  
14 the Director that such period be extended.

15       “(g) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF CENTERS.—  
16 The Director of NIH shall, to the extent practicable, pro-  
17 vide for an equitable geographical distribution of centers  
18 under this section.

19       “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the  
20 purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized  
21 to be appropriated \$40,000,000 for each of the fiscal years  
22 2008 through 2012. Such authorization is in addition to  
23 any other authorization of appropriations that is available  
24 for such purpose.”.

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