

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 845

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 2, 2007

Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

AN ACT

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Safety of Seniors Act
3 of 2007”.

4 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**
5 **ACT.**

6 Part J of title III of the Public Health Service Act
7 (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating section 393B (as added by
9 section 1401 of Public Law 106–386) as section
10 393C and transferring such section so that it ap-
11 pears after section 393B (as added by section 1301
12 of Public Law 106–310); and

13 (2) by inserting after section 393C (as redesign-
14 nated by paragraph (1)) the following:

15 **“SEC. 393D. PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER**
16 **ADULTS.**

17 “(a) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—The Secretary may—

18 “(1) oversee and support a national education
19 campaign to be carried out by a nonprofit organiza-
20 tion with experience in designing and implementing
21 national injury prevention programs, that is directed
22 principally to older adults, their families, and health
23 care providers, and that focuses on reducing falls
24 among older adults and preventing repeat falls; and

25 “(2) award grants, contracts, or cooperative
26 agreements to qualified organizations, institutions,

1 or consortia of qualified organizations and institu-
 2 tions, specializing, or demonstrating expertise, in
 3 falls or fall prevention, for the purpose of organizing
 4 State-level coalitions of appropriate State and local
 5 agencies, safety, health, senior citizen, and other or-
 6 ganizations to design and carry out local education
 7 campaigns, focusing on reducing falls among older
 8 adults and preventing repeat falls.

9 “(b) RESEARCH.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may—

11 “(A) conduct and support research to—

12 “(i) improve the identification of older
 13 adults who have a high risk of falling;

14 “(ii) improve data collection and anal-
 15 ysis to identify fall risk and protective fac-
 16 tors;

17 “(iii) design, implement, and evaluate
 18 the most effective fall prevention interven-
 19 tions;

20 “(iv) improve strategies that are prov-
 21 en to be effective in reducing falls by tai-
 22 loring these strategies to specific popu-
 23 lations of older adults;

1 “(v) conduct research in order to
 2 maximize the dissemination of proven, ef-
 3 fective fall prevention interventions;

4 “(vi) intensify proven interventions to
 5 prevent falls among older adults;

6 “(vii) improve the diagnosis, treat-
 7 ment, and rehabilitation of elderly fall vic-
 8 tims and older adults at high risk for falls;
 9 and

10 “(viii) assess the risk of falls occur-
 11 ring in various settings;

12 “(B) conduct research concerning barriers
 13 to the adoption of proven interventions with re-
 14 spect to the prevention of falls among older
 15 adults;

16 “(C) conduct research to develop, imple-
 17 ment, and evaluate the most effective ap-
 18 proaches to reducing falls among high-risk older
 19 adults living in communities and long-term care
 20 and assisted living facilities; and

21 “(D) evaluate the effectiveness of commu-
 22 nity programs designed to prevent falls among
 23 older adults.

24 “(2) EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary,
 25 either directly or through awarding grants, con-

1 tracts, or cooperative agreements to qualified organi-
2 zations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organi-
3 zations and institutions, specializing, or dem-
4 onstrating expertise, in falls or fall prevention, may
5 provide professional education for physicians and al-
6 lied health professionals, and aging service providers
7 in fall prevention, evaluation, and management.

8 “(c) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary
9 may carry out the following:

10 “(1) Oversee and support demonstration and
11 research projects to be carried out by qualified orga-
12 nizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified orga-
13 nizations and institutions, specializing, or dem-
14 onstrating expertise, in falls or fall prevention, in the
15 following areas:

16 “(A) A multistate demonstration project
17 assessing the utility of targeted fall risk screen-
18 ing and referral programs.

19 “(B) Programs designed for community-
20 dwelling older adults that utilize multicompo-
21 nent fall intervention approaches, including
22 physical activity, medication assessment and re-
23 duction when possible, vision enhancement, and
24 home modification strategies.

1 “(C) Programs that are targeted to new
2 fall victims who are at a high risk for second
3 falls and which are designed to maximize inde-
4 pendence and quality of life for older adults,
5 particularly those older adults with functional
6 limitations.

7 “(D) Private sector and public-private
8 partnerships to develop technologies to prevent
9 falls among older adults and prevent or reduce
10 injuries if falls occur.

11 “(2)(A) Award grants, contracts, or cooperative
12 agreements to qualified organizations, institutions,
13 or consortia of qualified organizations and institu-
14 tions, specializing, or demonstrating expertise, in
15 falls or fall prevention, to design, implement, and
16 evaluate fall prevention programs using proven inter-
17 vention strategies in residential and institutional set-
18 tings.

19 “(B) Award 1 or more grants, contracts, or co-
20 operative agreements to 1 or more qualified organi-
21 zations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organi-
22 zations and institutions, specializing, or dem-
23 onstrating expertise, in falls or fall prevention, in
24 order to carry out a multistate demonstration
25 project to implement and evaluate fall prevention

1 programs using proven intervention strategies de-
2 signed for single and multifamily residential settings
3 with high concentrations of older adults, including—

4 “(i) identifying high-risk populations;

5 “(ii) evaluating residential facilities;

6 “(iii) conducting screening to identify high-
7 risk individuals;

8 “(iv) providing fall assessment and risk re-
9 duction interventions and counseling;

10 “(v) coordinating services with health care
11 and social service providers; and

12 “(vi) coordinating post-fall treatment and
13 rehabilitation.

14 “(3) Award 1 or more grants, contracts, or co-
15 operative agreements to qualified organizations, in-
16 stitutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and
17 institutions, specializing, or demonstrating expertise,
18 in falls or fall prevention, to conduct evaluations of
19 the effectiveness of the demonstration projects de-
20 scribed in this subsection.

21 “(d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants, contracts, or
22 cooperative agreements under this section, the Secretary
23 may give priority to entities that explore the use of cost-
24 sharing with respect to activities funded under the grant,
25 contract, or agreement to ensure the institutional commit-

1 ment of the recipients of such assistance to the projects
 2 funded under the grant, contract, or agreement. Such non-
 3 Federal cost sharing contributions may be provided di-
 4 rectly or through donations from public or private entities
 5 and may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including
 6 plant, equipment, or services.

7 “(e) STUDY OF EFFECTS OF FALLS ON HEALTH
 8 CARE COSTS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may conduct
 10 a review of the effects of falls on health care costs,
 11 the potential for reducing falls, and the most effec-
 12 tive strategies for reducing health care costs associ-
 13 ated with falls.

14 “(2) REPORT.—If the Secretary conducts the
 15 review under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall, not
 16 later than 36 months after the date of enactment of
 17 the Safety of Seniors Act of 2007, submit to Con-
 18 gress a report describing the findings of the Sec-
 19 retary in conducting such review.”.

Passed the Senate August 1, 2007.

Attest: NANCY ERICKSON,
Secretary.