

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 903

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the roles of dentists and allied dental personnel in the Nation's disaster response framework, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 4, 2009

Mr. STUPAK (for himself and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to enhance the roles of dentists and allied dental personnel in the Nation's disaster response framework, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Dental Emergency Responder Act of 2009”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for
7 this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.

TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL RESPONSE

Sec. 101. National health security strategy.

Sec. 102. All-hazards public health and medical response curricula and training.

TITLE II—HOMELAND SECURITY

Sec. 201. National response framework.

Sec. 202. National preparedness system.

Sec. 203. Chief medical officer.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) The terrorist attacks of September 11,
4 2001, and the Gulf Coast hurricanes of 2005 re-
5 vealed substantial shortcomings in the Nation's abil-
6 ity to provide for the medical and other health-re-
7 lated needs of disaster victims when a community's
8 basic medical infrastructure is overwhelmed or sud-
9 denly compromised.

10 (2) The dental workforce can do much to en-
11 hance the Nation's medical surge capacity. Dentists
12 take many of the same core health care courses as
13 do physicians, and their training may even exceed
14 the basic health care curricula of most paramedics
15 and emergency medical technicians. Most dental fa-
16 cilities can also be used as decentralized treatment
17 centers and drug storage and distribution sites when
18 hospital facilities become overwhelmed.

19 (3) Most Federal disaster response policies,
20 plans, and programs do not reflect the full extent to

1 which dentists and auxiliary dental personnel can
2 contribute to the Nation’s medical surge capacity.
3 Dental schools, for example, have at times been de-
4 nied Federal public health and medical response
5 training funds on the grounds that dentists are not
6 identified by name in the Federal definitions of
7 “public health worker” and “emergency response
8 provider”.

9 (4) Dentists and allied dental personnel are
10 often willing to support the medical and public
11 health response to disasters and, with little addi-
12 tional training, could easily be incorporated into an
13 all-hazards emergency health care paradigm.

14 **TITLE I—PUBLIC HEALTH AND** 15 **MEDICAL RESPONSE**

16 **SEC. 101. NATIONAL HEALTH SECURITY STRATEGY.**

17 Section 2802(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act
18 (42 U.S.C. 300hh–1(b)(3)) is amended—

19 (1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A),
20 by inserting “dental and” before “mental health fa-
21 cilities”; and

22 (2) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “and
23 dental” after “medical”.

1 **SEC. 102. ALL-HAZARDS PUBLIC HEALTH AND MEDICAL RE-**
2 **SPONSE CURRICULA AND TRAINING.**

3 Section 319F(a)(5)(B) of the Public Health Service
4 Act (42 U.S.C. 247d–6(a)(5)(B)) is amended by striking
5 “public health or medical” and inserting “public health,
6 medical, or dental”.

7 **TITLE II—HOMELAND SECURITY**

8 **SEC. 201. NATIONAL RESPONSE FRAMEWORK.**

9 Paragraph (6) of section 2 of the Homeland Security
10 Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 101) is amended by inserting “and
11 dental” after “emergency medical”.

12 **SEC. 202. NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS SYSTEM.**

13 Subparagraph (B) of section 653(b)(4) of the Post-
14 Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 (6
15 U.S.C. 753(b)(4)) is amended by striking “public health
16 and medical” and inserting “public health, medical, and
17 dental”.

18 **SEC. 203. CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER.**

19 Paragraph (5) of section 516(c) of the Homeland Se-
20 curity Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 321e(c)) is amended by strik-
21 ing “medical community” and inserting “medical and den-
22 tal communities”.

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