

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1197

To provide for the establishment of a Commission to Accelerate the End
of Breast Cancer.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 2, 2015

Ms. CASTOR of Florida (for herself and Mrs. ELLMERS of North Carolina) in-
troduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on En-
ergy and Commerce

A BILL

To provide for the establishment of a Commission to
Accelerate the End 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 “Accelerating the End
5 of Breast Cancer Act of 2015”.

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

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

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. Findings.
- Sec. 4. Establishment.
- Sec. 5. Mission; duties.
- Sec. 6. Membership.

Sec. 7. Chairperson and commissioners.
Sec. 8. Coordination and nonduplication.
Sec. 9. Evaluation of the commission.
Sec. 10. Termination.

1 **SEC. 3. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds the following:

3 (1) In the United States, the chance of a
4 woman developing breast cancer during her lifetime
5 has increased from 1 in 11 in 1975 to 1 in 8 today.

6 (2) Worldwide, breast cancer is the most fre-
7 quently diagnosed cancer in women with 1.7 million
8 new cancer cases diagnosed in 2012. Breast cancer
9 is also one of the leading causes of cancer death in
10 women, with 522,000 women dying from the disease
11 worldwide in 2012, a 14 percent increase since
12 2008.

13 (3) More than 90 percent of deaths from breast
14 cancer are caused by metastasis, when breast cancer
15 has spread to other organs or bone.

16 (4) In 2010, the National Cancer Institute esti-
17 mated that breast cancer care in the United States
18 cost \$16.5 billion and cost the Nation \$12.1 billion
19 in lost productivity. It is projected that, with no
20 changes, the cost of breast cancer care will rise to
21 at least \$20.9 billion in 2020.

1 (5) Very little has improved in terms of breast
2 cancer incidence, morbidity, and mortality rates over
3 the past 40 years.

4 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT.**

5 The President shall establish a commission to be
6 known as the Commission to Accelerate the End of Breast
7 Cancer (in this Act referred to as the “the Commission”).

8 **SEC. 5. MISSION; DUTIES.**

9 (a) **MISSION.**—The mission of the Commission shall
10 be to help end breast cancer by January 1, 2020.

11 (b) **DUTIES.**—The Commission shall—

12 (1) identify opportunities and ideas within gov-
13 ernment and the private sector that are key compo-
14 nents in achieving the end of breast cancer and
15 which have been overlooked, yet are ripe for collabo-
16 ration and investment, and

17 (2) recommend projects to leverage such oppor-
18 tunities and ideas in the areas of—

19 (A) the primary prevention of breast can-
20 cer; and

21 (B) the causes and prevention of breast
22 cancer metastasis.

23 (c) **MEANS.**—In carrying out the duties described in
24 subsection (b), the Commission shall—

1 (1) identify revolutionary opportunities and
2 ideas in fundamental and applied sciences and epide-
3 miology with a focus on ending breast cancer;

4 (2) identify timely opportunities and scientific
5 discoveries which can be turned into real world
6 strategies to prevent breast cancer and prevent
7 breast cancer metastasis and deaths;

8 (3) promote ideas that are intellectually compel-
9 ling, innovative, and imaginative;

10 (4) accelerate potential transformational sci-
11 entific advances—

12 (A) not being prioritized within the Fed-
13 eral Government, but which can help to achieve
14 the mission described in subsection (a); and

15 (B) unlikely to be achieved by the private
16 sector due to technical and financial uncer-
17 tainty;

18 (5) identify promising, underdeveloped areas of
19 research that would benefit from a cluster of govern-
20 ment, industry, and academia forming innovation
21 communities to rapidly advance knowledge into prac-
22 tice, while creating new opportunities for job cre-
23 ation and advancement;

24 (6) identify opportunities for transdisciplinary
25 cross-cutting collaborations; and

1 (7) identify opportunities for seed grants to le-
2 verage identified opportunities and ideas.

3 (d) STRATEGIC VISION.—Not later than 6 months
4 after the appointment of the initial members of the Com-
5 mission, the Commission shall submit to the President and
6 the relevant authorizing and appropriations committees of
7 the Congress a description of the Commission’s strategic
8 vision for making progress in achieving the mission de-
9 scribed in subsection (a) by January 1, 2020.

10 (e) ANNUAL REPORTS.—The Commission shall sub-
11 mit an annual report to the President, the Congress, and
12 the public describing the Commission’s activities under
13 this section, including its progress in achieving the mission
14 described in subsection (a).

15 **SEC. 6. MEMBERSHIP.**

16 (a) NUMBER; APPOINTMENT.—The Commission shall
17 be composed of not more than 10 members, of which—

18 (1) not more than 8 shall be appointed by the
19 President;

20 (2) 1 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the
21 House of Representatives; and

22 (3) 1 shall be appointed by the majority leader
23 of the Senate.

24 (b) COMPOSITION.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Com-
2 mission shall be appointed to represent one of the
3 following 3 categories:

4 (A) Representatives of varied disciplines
5 within the biomedical research field.

6 (B) Representatives of varied disciplines
7 outside of the biomedical research field.

8 (C) Educated patient advocates, meaning
9 individuals who—

10 (i) represent a patient-led, patient-
11 centered organization with a patient con-
12 stituency;

13 (ii) have been personally affected by
14 breast cancer; and

15 (iii) are trained, knowledgeable, and
16 prepared to participate in the decision-
17 making process of science and medicine.

18 (2) REPRESENTATION OF MEMBERSHIP CAT-
19 EGORIES.—Of the members of the Commission—

20 (A) at least 1 but not more than 3 shall
21 be appointed to represent the category de-
22 scribed in paragraph (1)(A);

23 (B) at least 1 but not more than 3 shall
24 be appointed to represent the category de-
25 scribed in paragraph (1)(B); and

1 (C) at least 2 but not more than 4 shall
2 be appointed to represent the category de-
3 scribed in paragraph (1)(C).

4 (c) INITIAL MEMBERS.—The initial members of the
5 Commission shall be appointed not later than 60 days
6 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

7 (d) TERMS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—Each member of the Com-
9 mission shall be appointed for a term of 3 years and
10 may be reappointed.

11 (2) VACANCIES.—Any member of the Commis-
12 sion appointed to fill a vacancy occurring before the
13 expiration of the term for which the member's pred-
14 ecessor was appointed shall be appointed only for
15 the remainder of that term. A member may serve
16 after the expiration of that member's term until a
17 successor has taken office. A vacancy in the Com-
18 mission shall be filled in the manner in which the
19 original appointment was made.

20 (e) QUORUM.—Three members of the Commission
21 shall constitute a quorum.

22 **SEC. 7. CHAIRPERSON AND COMMISSIONERS.**

23 (a) CHAIRPERSON.—

24 (1) DESIGNATION.—Of the members of the
25 Commission appointed under section 6(a), the Presi-

1 dent shall at the time of appointment, designate one
2 to serve as Chairperson of the Commission.

3 (2) QUALIFICATIONS.—The Chairperson shall
4 be an individual who, by reason of professional back-
5 ground and experience, is especially qualified to
6 manage areas of study pertaining to ending breast
7 cancer by January 1, 2020.

8 (3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The responsibilities of
9 the Chairperson shall include—

10 (A) approving all new study projects and
11 areas of study of the Commission based on in-
12 novation, impact, and scientific and technical
13 merit;

14 (B) developing criteria (including mile-
15 stones) for assessing, and overseeing assess-
16 ment of, the success of the study projects and
17 areas of study of the Commission;

18 (C) identifying opportunities for seed
19 grants and other funding through awards,
20 prizes, grants, and contracts to achieve the mis-
21 sion described in section 5(a); and

22 (D) terminating study projects and areas
23 of study of the Commission that are not achiev-
24 ing the mission described in section 5(a).

25 (b) COMMISSIONERS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the
2 Commission may appoint members of the Commis-
3 sion to oversee one or more areas of study of the
4 Commission.

5 (2) RESPONSIBILITIES.—A member appointed
6 under paragraph (1) shall, with respect to one or
7 more areas of study, be responsible for—

8 (A) recommending novel proposals,
9 projects, and collaborations based on scientific
10 and technical merit to achieve the mission de-
11 scribed in section 5(a) with a focus on strate-
12 gies for the primary prevention of breast can-
13 cer, and methods to prevent breast cancer me-
14 tastasis;

15 (B) identifying ideas and opportunities to
16 achieve the mission described in section 5(a)
17 that are intellectually compelling, innovative,
18 and imaginative, including such ideas and op-
19 portunities not being prioritized for breast can-
20 cer relevance within Federal agencies or pro-
21 grams or the private sector;

22 (C) working with other relevant Federal
23 agencies to identify areas of concurrent inter-
24 ests in order to maximize Federal investment
25 and stimulate collaborative projects;

1 (D) identifying opportunities for
2 transdisciplinary, cross-cutting collaborations;
3 and

4 (E) monitoring the progress of study
5 projects and areas of study and recommending
6 restructure or termination.

7 **SEC. 8. COORDINATION AND NONDUPLICATION.**

8 To the maximum extent practicable, the Commission
9 shall ensure that the activities of the Commission are co-
10 ordinated with, and do not duplicate the efforts of, pro-
11 grams and laboratories of other government agencies.

12 **SEC. 9. EVALUATION OF THE COMMISSION.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall seek to enter
14 into an agreement with the Institute of Medicine of the
15 National Academy of Sciences under which the Institute,
16 after the Commission has been in operation for 3 years,
17 completes an evaluation of how well the Commission is
18 making progress towards achieving the mission described
19 in section 5(a).

20 (b) INCLUSIONS.—The evaluation under subsection
21 (a) shall include—

22 (1) a recommendation on whether the Commis-
23 sion should be continued or terminated; and

24 (2) a description of lessons learned from oper-
25 ation of the Commission.

1 (c) AVAILABILITY.—On completion of the evaluation
2 under subsection (a), the Commission shall make the eval-
3 uation available to the Congress and the public.

4 **SEC. 10. TERMINATION.**

5 The Commission shall terminate on June 1, 2020.

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