

104TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1448

To establish the National Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth Suicide Prevention, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 5, 1995

Mr. KERRY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources

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## A BILL

To establish the National Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth Suicide Prevention, 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 “Gay and Lesbian  
5 Youth Suicide Prevention Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 There is established a commission to be known as the  
8 National Commission on Gay and Lesbian Youth Suicide  
9 Prevention (referred to in this Act as the “Commission”).

1 **SEC. 3. MEMBERSHIP.**

2 (a) NUMBER AND APPOINTMENT.—The Commission  
3 shall be composed of 31 members appointed by the Sec-  
4 retary of Health and Human Services. Members of the  
5 Commission shall include professionals and experts in the  
6 field of youth suicide prevention.

7 (b) TERMS.—Each member of the Commission shall  
8 be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy  
9 in the Commission shall not affect the powers of the Com-  
10 mission, but shall be filled in the same manner as the  
11 original appointment.

12 (c) MEETINGS.—The Commission shall, during a 6-  
13 month period, meet with the Secretary of Health and  
14 Human Services and advise various offices within the De-  
15 partment of Health and Human Services on an ongoing  
16 basis.

17 (d) CHAIRPERSON.—The Secretary of Health and  
18 Human Services shall select a chairperson for the Com-  
19 mission from among the members of the Commission.

20 **SEC. 4. DUTIES OF COMMISSION.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Commission shall carry out  
22 activities to combat the epidemic of suicide among gay and  
23 lesbian youth, who account for 30 percent of completed  
24 youth suicides, as reported by the Department of Health  
25 and Human Services in the 1989 “Report of the Sec-  
26 retary’s Task Force on Youth Suicide”. The Commission

1 shall advise the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
2 and heads of other Federal and State youth service agen-  
3 cies concerning how to include the concerns of gay and  
4 lesbian youth in suicide prevention policies, programs, and  
5 research.

6 (b) GOALS OF COMMISSION.—The goals of the Com-  
7 mission shall be to—

8 (1) work to include the concerns of gay and les-  
9 bian youth in suicide prevention programs at the na-  
10 tional and State level;

11 (2) develop and make specific recommendations  
12 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services and  
13 heads of other relevant Federal and State agencies  
14 about how to stem the epidemic of gay and lesbian  
15 youth suicide;

16 (3) work to expand research on youth suicide to  
17 include research on gay and lesbian youth suicide;  
18 and

19 (4) work to amend existing youth suicide poli-  
20 cies, guidelines, and programs to include policies,  
21 guidelines, and programs appropriate for gay and  
22 lesbian youth.

23 **SEC. 5. REPORTS.**

24 (a) INTERIM REPORTS.—The Commission shall con-  
25 duct regional public hearings around the United States to

1 gather information from youths, family members of such  
2 youths, and professionals, about the problem of gay and  
3 lesbian youth suicide, on an ongoing basis. The Commis-  
4 sion shall prepare and submit an interim report to the Sec-  
5 retary of Health and Human Services. The interim report  
6 shall contain findings and conclusions of the Commission,  
7 based on the hearings.

8 (b) FINAL REPORT.—The Commission shall prepare  
9 and submit a final report to the Secretary of Health and  
10 Human Services. The final report shall contain a detailed  
11 statement of the findings and conclusions of the Commis-  
12 sion.

13 **SEC. 6. POWERS OF THE COMMISSION.**

14 (a) INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.—The  
15 Commission may secure directly from any Federal depart-  
16 ment or agency such information as the Commission con-  
17 siders necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.  
18 Upon request of the Chairperson of the Commission, the  
19 head of such department or agency shall furnish such in-  
20 formation to the Commission.

21 (b) POSTAL SERVICES.—The Commission may use  
22 the United States mails in the same manner and under  
23 the same conditions as other departments and agencies of  
24 the Federal Government.

1 (c) USE OF VOLUNTARY AND UNCOMPENSATED  
2 SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31,  
3 United States Code, the Secretary of Health and Human  
4 Services is authorized to accept voluntary and uncompen-  
5 sated services in furtherance of the purposes of this Act.

6 **SEC. 7. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.**

7 (a) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Commission  
8 shall serve on the Commission without compensation.

9 (b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Com-  
10 mission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per  
11 diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employ-  
12 ees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title  
13 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or  
14 regular places of business in the performance of services  
15 for the Commission.

16 (c) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any  
17 Federal Government employee may be detailed to the  
18 Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall  
19 be without interruption or loss of civil service status or  
20 privilege.

21 (d) PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY AND INTERMIT-  
22 TENT SERVICES.—The Chairperson of the Commission  
23 may procure temporary and intermittent services under  
24 section 3109(b) of title 5, United States Code, at rates  
25 for individuals which do not exceed the daily equivalent

1 of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level V of  
2 the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of such title.

3 **SEC. 8. SUNSET PROVISION.**

4 The Commission shall terminate 6 months after the  
5 date of the first meeting of the Commission.

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