

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 844

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the establishment
of a National Center for Social Work Research.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 13, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ (for himself, Mr. LEACH, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. FROST, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. LEE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. NORTON, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for
the establishment of a National Center for Social Work
Research.

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 “National Center for
5 Social Work Research Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Social workers focus on the improvement of
2 individual and family functioning and the creation of
3 effective health and mental health prevention and
4 treatment interventions in order for individuals to
5 become more productive members of society.

6 (2) Social workers provide front line prevention
7 and treatment services in the areas of school vio-
8 lence, aging, teen pregnancy, child abuse, domestic
9 violence, juvenile crime, and substance abuse, par-
10 ticularly in rural and underserved communities.

11 (3) Social workers are in a unique position to
12 provide valuable research information on these com-
13 plex social concerns, taking into account a wide
14 range of social, medical, economic and community
15 influences from an interdisciplinary, family-centered
16 and community-based approach.

17 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF NATIONAL CENTER FOR SO-**
18 **CIAL WORK RESEARCH.**

19 Title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
20 281 et seq.), as amended by title I of Public Law 106–
21 525, is amended—

22 (1) in section 401(b)(2) (42 U.S.C. 281(b)(2)),
23 by adding at the end the following:

24 “(H) The National Center for Social Work Re-
25 search.”; and

1 (2) in part E (42 U.S.C. 287 et seq.), by add-
2 ing at the end the following:

3 “Subpart 7—National Center for Social Work Research

4 **“SEC. 485J. PURPOSE OF CENTER.**

5 “‘The general purpose of the National Center for So-
6 cial Work Research (referred to in this subpart as the
7 ‘Center’) is the conduct and support of, and dissemination
8 of targeted research on social work methods and outcomes
9 related to problems of significant social concern. The Cen-
10 ter shall promote research and training designed to inform
11 social work practice, thus increasing the knowledge base
12 which promotes a healthier America. In addition, the Cen-
13 ter shall provide policymakers with empirically-based re-
14 search information to better understand complex social
15 issues and make informed funding decisions about service
16 effectiveness and cost efficiency.

17 **“SEC. 485K. SPECIFIC AUTHORITIES.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To carry out the purpose de-
19 scribed in section 485J, the Director of the Center may
20 provide research training and instruction and establish, in
21 the Center and in other nonprofit institutions, research
22 traineeships and fellowships in the study and investigation
23 of the prevention of disease, health promotion, the associa-
24 tion of socioeconomic status, gender, ethnicity, age, and
25 geographical location and health, the social work care of

1 persons with and families of individuals with acute and
2 chronic illnesses, child abuse, neglect, and youth violence,
3 and child and family care to address problems of signifi-
4 cant social concern especially in underserved populations
5 and underserved geographical areas.

6 “(b) STIPENDS AND ALLOWANCES.—The Director of
7 the Center may provide individuals receiving training and
8 instruction or traineeships or fellowships under subsection
9 (a) with such stipends and allowances (including amounts
10 for travel and subsistence and dependency allowances) as
11 the Director determines necessary.

12 “(c) GRANTS.—The Director of the Center may make
13 grants to nonprofit institutions to provide training and in-
14 struction and traineeships and fellowships under sub-
15 section (a).

16 **“SEC. 485L. ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

17 “(a) DUTIES.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
19 lish an advisory council for the Center that shall ad-
20 vise, assist, consult with, and make recommenda-
21 tions to the Secretary and the Director of the Center
22 on matters related to the activities carried out by
23 and through the Center and the policies with respect
24 to such activities.

1 “(2) GIFTS.—The advisory council for the Cen-
2 ter may recommend to the Secretary the acceptance,
3 in accordance with section 231, of conditional gifts
4 for study, investigations, and research and for the
5 acquisition of grounds or construction, equipment, or
6 maintenance of facilities for the Center.

7 “(3) OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS.—The
8 advisory council for the Center—

9 “(A)(i) may make recommendations to the
10 Director of the Center with respect to research
11 to be conducted by the Center;

12 “(ii) may review applications for grants
13 and cooperative agreements for research or
14 training and recommend for approval applica-
15 tions for projects that demonstrate the prob-
16 ability of making valuable contributions to
17 human knowledge; and

18 “(iii) may review any grant, contract, or
19 cooperative agreement proposed to be made or
20 entered into by the Center;

21 “(B) may collect, by correspondence or by
22 personal investigation, information relating to
23 studies that are being carried out in the United
24 States or any other country and, with the ap-
25 proval of the Director of the Center, make such

1 information available through appropriate publi-
2 cations; and

3 “(C) may appoint subcommittees and con-
4 vene workshops and conferences.

5 “(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The advisory council shall
7 be composed of the ex officio members described in
8 paragraph (2) and not more than 18 individuals to
9 be appointed by the Secretary under paragraph (3).

10 “(2) EX OFFICIO MEMBERS.—The ex officio
11 members of the advisory council shall include—

12 “(A) the Secretary of Health and Human
13 Services, the Director of NIH, the Director of
14 the Center, the Director of the Office of Behav-
15 orial and Social Sciences Research, the Chief
16 Social Work Officer of the Veterans’ Adminis-
17 tration, the Assistant Secretary of Defense for
18 Health Affairs, the Associate Director of Pre-
19 vention Research at the National Institute of
20 Mental Health, the Director of the Centers for
21 Disease Control and Prevention, the Director of
22 the Division of Epidemiology and Services Re-
23 search, the Assistant Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services for the Administration for
25 Children and Families, the Assistant Secretary

1 of Education for the Office of Educational Re-
2 search and Improvement, the Assistant Sec-
3 retary of Housing and Urban Development for
4 Community Planning and Development, and the
5 Assistant Attorney General for Office of Justice
6 Programs (or the designees of such officers);
7 and

8 “(B) such additional officers or employees
9 of the United States as the Secretary deter-
10 mines necessary for the advisory council to ef-
11 fectively carry out its functions.

12 “(3) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—The Secretary
13 shall appoint not to exceed 18 individuals to the ad-
14 visory council, of which—

15 “(A) not more than two-thirds of such in-
16 dividual shall be appointed from among the
17 leading representatives of the health and sci-
18 entific disciplines (including public health and
19 the behavioral or social sciences) relevant to the
20 activities of the Center, and at least 7 such in-
21 dividuals shall be professional social workers
22 who are recognized experts in the area of clin-
23 ical practice, education, policy, or research; and

24 “(B) not more than one-third of such indi-
25 viduals shall be appointed from the general

1 public and shall include leaders in fields of pub-
2 lic policy, law, health policy, economics, and
3 management.

4 The Secretary shall make appointments to the advi-
5 sory council in such a manner as to ensure that the
6 terms of the members do not all expire in the same
7 year.

8 “(4) COMPENSATION.—Members of the advi-
9 sory council who are officers or employees of the
10 United States shall not receive any compensation for
11 service on the advisory council. The remaining mem-
12 bers shall receive, for each day (including travel
13 time) they are engaged in the performance of the
14 functions of the advisory council, compensation at
15 rates not to exceed the daily equivalent of the annual
16 rate in effect for an individual at grade GS–18 of
17 the General Schedule.

18 “(c) TERMS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The term of office of an in-
20 dividual appointed to the advisory council under sub-
21 section (b)(3) shall be 4 years, except that any indi-
22 vidual appointed to fill a vacancy on the advisory
23 council shall serve for the remainder of the unex-
24 pired term. A member may serve after the expiration

1 of the member's term until a successor has been ap-
2 pointed.

3 “(2) REAPPOINTMENTS.—A member of the ad-
4 visory council who has been appointed under sub-
5 section (b)(3) for a term of 4 years may not be re-
6 appointed to the advisory council prior to the expira-
7 tion of the 2-year period beginning on the date on
8 which the prior term expired.

9 “(3) VACANCY.—If a vacancy occurs on the ad-
10 visory council among the members under subsection
11 (b)(3), the Secretary shall make an appointment to
12 fill that vacancy not later than 90 days after the
13 date on which the vacancy occurs.

14 “(d) CHAIRPERSON.—The chairperson of the advi-
15 sory council shall be selected by the Secretary from among
16 the members appointed under subsection (b)(3), except
17 that the Secretary may select the Director of the Center
18 to be the chairperson of the advisory council. The term
19 of office of the chairperson shall be 2 years.

20 “(e) MEETINGS.—The advisory council shall meet at
21 the call of the chairperson or upon the request of the Di-
22 rector of the Center, but not less than 3 times each fiscal
23 year. The location of the meetings of the advisory council
24 shall be subject to the approval of the Director of the Cen-
25 ter.

1 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—The Director of
2 the Center shall designate a member of the staff of the
3 Center to serve as the executive secretary of the advisory
4 council. The Director of the Center shall make available
5 to the advisory council such staff, information, and other
6 assistance as the council may require to carry out its func-
7 tions. The Director of the Center shall provide orientation
8 and training for new members of the advisory council to
9 provide such members with such information and training
10 as may be appropriate for their effective participation in
11 the functions of the advisory council.

12 “(g) COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The ad-
13 visory council may prepare, for inclusion in the biennial
14 report under section 485M—

15 “(1) comments with respect to the activities of
16 the advisory council in the fiscal years for which the
17 report is prepared;

18 “(2) comments on the progress of the Center in
19 meeting its objectives; and

20 “(3) recommendations with respect to the fu-
21 ture direction and program and policy emphasis of
22 the center.

23 The advisory council may prepare such additional reports
24 as it may determine appropriate.

1 **“SEC. 485M. BIENNIAL REPORT.**

2 “The Director of the Center, after consultation with
3 the advisory council for the Center, shall prepare for inclu-
4 sion in the biennial report under section 403, a biennial
5 report that shall consist of a description of the activities
6 of the Center and program policies of the Director of the
7 Center in the fiscal years for which the report is prepared.
8 The Director of the Center may prepare such additional
9 reports as the Director determines appropriate. The Di-
10 rector of the Center shall provide the advisory council of
11 the Center an opportunity for the submission of the writ-
12 ten comments described in section 485L(g).

13 **“SEC. 485N. QUARTERLY REPORT.**

14 “The Director of the Center shall prepare a quarterly
15 report to Congress with a summary of findings and policy
16 implications from research conducted or supported
17 through the Center.

18 **“SEC. 485O. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

19 “For the purpose of carrying out this subpart, there
20 is authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for each of
21 the fiscal years 2004 through 2008.”.

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