

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2184 Session of  
1995

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HENNESSEY AND ITKIN, NOVEMBER 1, 1995

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,  
NOVEMBER 1, 1995

AN ACT

1 Establishing an osteoporosis prevention and treatment program;  
2 providing for additional duties of the Department of Health;  
3 and establishing the Interagency Council on Osteoporosis and  
4 providing for its powers and duties.

5 The General Assembly finds as follows:

6 (1) Osteoporosis, a bone-thinning disease, is a major  
7 public health problem that poses a threat to the health and  
8 quality of life to as many as 25 million Americans.

9 (2) The 1.5 million fractures each year that result from  
10 osteoporosis cause pain, disability, immobility and social  
11 isolation, affecting quality of life and threatening people's  
12 ability to live independently.

13 (3) Because osteoporosis progresses silently and without  
14 sensation over many years and many cases remain undiagnosed,  
15 its first symptom is often a fracture, typically of the hip,  
16 spine or wrist.

17 (4) One of two women and one of five men will suffer an

1 osteoporotic fracture in a lifetime.

2 (5) A woman's risk of hip fracture is equal to her  
3 combined risk of breast, uterine and ovarian cancer.

4 (6) The annual direct and indirect costs of osteoporosis  
5 to the health care system are estimated to be as high as \$18  
6 billion in 1993 and are expected to rise to \$60 to \$80  
7 billion by the year 2020.

8 (7) Since osteoporosis progresses silently and currently  
9 has no cure, prevention, early diagnosis and treatment are  
10 key to reducing the prevalence of and devastation from this  
11 disease.

12 (8) Although there exists a large quantity of public  
13 information about osteoporosis, it remains inadequately  
14 disseminated and not tailored to meet the needs of specific  
15 population groups.

16 (9) Most people, including physicians, health care  
17 providers and government agencies, continue to lack knowledge  
18 in the prevention, detection and treatment of the disease.

19 (10) Experts in the field of osteoporosis believe that  
20 with greater awareness of the value of prevention among  
21 medical experts, service providers and the public,  
22 osteoporosis will be preventable and treatable in the future,  
23 thereby reducing the costs of long-term care.

24 (11) Osteoporosis is a multigenerational issue because  
25 building strong bones during youth and preserving them during  
26 adulthood may prevent fractures in later life.

27 (12) Educating the public and health care community  
28 throughout this Commonwealth about this potentially  
29 devastating disease is of paramount importance and is in  
30 every respect in the public interest and to the benefit of

1 all residents of this Commonwealth.

2 The General Assembly declares that it is the purpose of this  
3 act:

4 (1) To create and foster a multigenerational, Statewide  
5 program to promote public awareness and knowledge about the  
6 causes of osteoporosis, personal risk factors, the value of  
7 prevention and early detection and the options available for  
8 treatment.

9 (2) To facilitate and enhance knowledge and  
10 understanding of osteoporosis by disseminating educational  
11 materials, information about research results, services and  
12 strategies for prevention and treatment to patients, health  
13 professionals and the public.

14 (3) To utilize educational and training resources and  
15 services that have been developed by organizations with  
16 appropriate expertise and knowledge of osteoporosis and to  
17 use available technical assistance.

18 (4) To evaluate existing osteoporosis services in the  
19 community and assess the need for improving the quality and  
20 accessibility of community-based services.

21 (5) To provide easy access to clear, complete and  
22 accurate osteoporosis information and referral services.

23 (6) To educate and train service providers, health  
24 professionals and physicians.

25 (7) To heighten awareness about the prevention,  
26 detection and treatment of osteoporosis among Commonwealth  
27 and local health and human service officials, health  
28 educators and policymakers.

29 (8) To coordinate Commonwealth programs and services to  
30 address the issue of osteoporosis.

1           (9) To promote the development of support groups for  
2           osteoporosis patients and their families and caregivers.

3           (10) To adequately fund these programs.

4           (11) To provide lasting improvements in the delivery of  
5           osteoporosis health care, thus providing patients with an  
6           improved quality of life and society with the containment of  
7           health care costs.

8           The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
9           hereby enacts as follows:

10          Section 1. Short title.

11          This act shall be known and may be cited as the Osteoporosis  
12          Prevention and Treatment Education Act.

13          Section 2. Definitions.

14          The following words and phrases when used in this act shall  
15          have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
16          context clearly indicates otherwise:

17          "Council." The Interagency Council on Osteoporosis.

18          "Department." The Department of Health of the Commonwealth.

19          "Program." The Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment  
20          Education Program established in section 3.

21          "Secretary." The Secretary of Health.

22          Section 3. Establishment of the Osteoporosis Prevention and  
23                          Treatment Education Program.

24          The department shall:

25                (1) Provide sufficient staff to implement the  
26                Osteoporosis Prevention and Treatment Education Program.

27                (2) Provide appropriate training for staff of the  
28                program.

29                (3) Identify the appropriate entities to carry out the  
30                program.

1 (4) Base the program on the most up-to-date scientific  
2 information and findings.

3 (5) Work to improve the capacity of community-based  
4 services available to osteoporosis patients.

5 (6) Work with governmental offices, community and  
6 business leaders, community organizations, health care and  
7 human service providers and national osteoporosis  
8 organizations to coordinate efforts and maximize State  
9 resources in the areas of prevention, education and treatment  
10 of osteoporosis.

11 (7) Identify and, when appropriate, replicate or use  
12 successful osteoporosis programs and procure related  
13 materials and services from organizations with appropriate  
14 expertise and knowledge of osteoporosis, as described in  
15 section 7.

16 Section 4. Public awareness and education.

17 (a) General rule.--The department shall establish, promote  
18 and maintain an osteoporosis prevention and treatment education  
19 program in order to raise public awareness, educate consumers,  
20 educate and train health professionals, teachers and human  
21 service providers and for other purposes.

22 (b) Public awareness.--The department shall use, but is not  
23 limited to, the following methods for raising public awareness  
24 on the causes and nature of osteoporosis, personal risk factors,  
25 value of prevention and early detection and options for  
26 diagnosing and treating the disease:

27 (1) An outreach campaign utilizing print, radio and  
28 television public service announcements, advertisements,  
29 posters and other materials.

30 (2) Community forums.

1           (3) Health information and risk factor assessment at  
2 public events.

3           (4) Targeting at-risk populations.

4           (5) Providing reliable information to policymakers.

5           (6) Distributing information through county health  
6 departments, schools, area agencies on aging, employer  
7 wellness programs, physicians, hospitals and health  
8 maintenance organizations, women's groups, nonprofit  
9 organizations, community-based organizations and departmental  
10 regional offices.

11       (c) Consumer education.--The department shall use, but is  
12 not limited to, the following methods for educating consumers  
13 about risk factors, diet and exercise, diagnostic procedures and  
14 their indications for use, risks and benefits of drug therapies  
15 currently approved by the United States Food and Drug  
16 Administration, environmental safety and injury prevention and  
17 the availability of diagnostic, treatment and rehabilitation  
18 services:

19           (1) Identify and obtain educational materials, including  
20 brochures and videotapes which translate accurately the  
21 latest scientific information on osteoporosis in easy-to-  
22 understand terms.

23           (2) Build a Statewide capacity to provide information  
24 and referral on all aspects of osteoporosis, including  
25 educational materials and counseling.

26           (3) Establish State linkage with an existing toll-free  
27 hotline for consumers.

28           (4) Facilitate the development and maintenance of  
29 osteoporosis support groups.

30           (5) Conduct workshops and seminars for lay audiences.

(d) Professional education.--The department shall use, but is not limited to, the following methods for educating physicians and health professionals and training community service providers on the most up-to-date, accurate scientific and medical information on osteoporosis prevention, diagnosis and treatment, therapeutic decision making, including guidelines for detecting and treating the disease in special populations, risks and benefits of medications and research advances:

(1) Identify and obtain education materials for the professional which translates the latest scientific and medical information into clinical applications.

(2) Raise awareness among physicians and health and human services professionals as to the importance of osteoporosis prevention, early detection, treatment and rehabilitation.

(3) Identify and use available curricula for training health and human services providers and community leaders on osteoporosis prevention, detection and treatment.

(4) Provide workshops and seminars for in-depth professional development in the field of care and management of patients with osteoporosis.

(5) Conduct a Statewide conference on osteoporosis at appropriate intervals.

#### Section 5. Needs assessment.

(a) Assessment.--The department shall conduct a needs assessment to identify:

(1) Research being conducted within this Commonwealth.

(2) Available technical assistance and educational materials and programs nationwide.

(3) The level of public and professional awareness about

1 osteoporosis.

2 (4) The needs of osteoporosis patients, their families  
3 and caregivers.

4 (5) Needs of health care providers, including  
5 physicians, nurses, managed care organizations and other  
6 health care providers.

7 (6) The services available to the osteoporosis patient.

8 (7) Existence of osteoporosis treatment programs.

9 (8) Existence of osteoporosis support groups.

10 (9) Existence of rehabilitation services.

11 (10) Number and location of bone density testing  
12 equipment.

13 (b) List of services.--Based on the needs assessment, the  
14 department shall develop and maintain a list of osteoporosis-  
15 related services and osteoporosis health care providers with  
16 specialization in services to prevent, diagnose and treat  
17 osteoporosis. This list will be disseminated with a description  
18 of diagnostic testing procedures, appropriate indications for  
19 their use, drug therapies currently approved by the United  
20 States Food and Drug Administration and a cautionary statement  
21 about the current status of osteoporosis research, prevention  
22 and treatment. Such a statement shall also indicate that the  
23 department does not license, certify or in any way approve  
24 osteoporosis programs or centers in the State.

25 Section 6. Interagency Council on Osteoporosis.

26 (a) Establishment.--There is hereby established the  
27 Interagency Council on Osteoporosis. The secretary shall chair  
28 the council. The council shall have representatives from  
29 appropriate State departments and agencies including, but not  
30 limited to, the entities with responsibility for aging, health



1 care reform implementation, education, public welfare and  
2 women's programs.

3 (b) Functions.--The council shall:

4 (1) Coordinate osteoporosis programs conducted by or  
5 through the department.

6 (2) Establish a mechanism for sharing information on  
7 osteoporosis among all officials and employees involved in  
8 carrying out osteoporosis-related programs.

9 (3) Review and coordinate the most promising areas of  
10 education, prevention and treatment concerning osteoporosis.

11 (4) Assist the department and other offices in  
12 developing and coordinating plans for education and health  
13 promotion on osteoporosis.

14 (5) Establish mechanisms to use the results of research  
15 concerning osteoporosis in the development of relevant  
16 policies and programs.

17 (6) Prepare a report that describes educational  
18 initiatives on osteoporosis sponsored by the State and make  
19 recommendations for new educational initiatives on  
20 osteoporosis and transmit the report to the General Assembly  
21 and make the report available to the public.

22 (c) Advisory Panel on Osteoporosis.--

23 (1) The council shall establish and coordinate the  
24 Advisory Panel on Osteoporosis which will provide  
25 nongovernmental input regarding the program.

26 (2) Membership shall include, but is not limited to,  
27 persons with osteoporosis, women's health organizations,  
28 public health educators, osteoporosis experts, providers of  
29 osteoporosis health care, persons knowledgeable in health  
30 promotion and education and representatives of national

osteoporosis organizations or their State and regional affiliates.

Section 7. Technical assistance.

(a) General rule.--The department may replicate and use successful osteoporosis programs and enter into contracts or purchase materials or services from organizations with appropriate expertise and knowledge of osteoporosis for such services and materials such as, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Educational information and materials on the causes, prevention, detection, treatment and management of osteoporosis.

(2) Training of staff.

(3) Physician and health care professional education and training and clinical conferences.

(4) Conference organization and staffing.

(5) Regional office development and staffing.

(6) Nominations for advisory panels.

(7) Support group development.

(8) Consultation.

(9) Resource library facilities.

(10) Training home health aides and nursing home personnel.

(11) Training teachers.

(b) Agreements.--The department may enter into an agreement to work with a national organizations with expertise in osteoporosis to establish and staff an office of that organization in this Commonwealth to implement parts of the osteoporosis program.

Section 8. Funding.

1       (a) Appropriations.--This act shall be funded through moneys  
2 which the General Assembly may, from time to time, appropriate.

3       (b) Contributions.--The secretary may accept grants,  
4 services and property from the Federal Government, foundations,  
5 organizations, medical schools and other entities as may be  
6 available for the purposes of fulfilling the obligations of this  
7 act.

8       (c) Waivers.--The secretary shall seek any Federal waiver or  
9 waivers that may be necessary to maximize funds from the Federal  
10 Government to implement this act.

11 Section 9. Effective date.

12       This act shall take effect in 60 days.