

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 845

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2007

Mr. ENZI (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to expand and intensify programs with respect to research and related activities concerning elder falls.

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 “Keeping Seniors Safe  
5 From Falls Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Falls are the leading cause of injury deaths  
9 among individuals who are over 65 years of age.

1           (2) In 2002, falls among older adults accounted  
2 for 12,800 deaths and 1,640,000 emergency depart-  
3 ment visits.

4           (3) Hospital admissions for hip fractures  
5 among the elderly have increased from 231,000 ad-  
6 missions in 1988 to 327,000 in 2001.

7           (4) Annually, more than 80,000 individuals who  
8 are over 65 years of age sustain a traumatic brain  
9 injury as a result of a fall.

10          (5) The total medical cost of all fall injuries for  
11 people age 65 and older was calculated in 2000 to  
12 be \$19,500,000,000.

13          (6) A national approach to reducing falls  
14 among older adults, which focuses on the daily life  
15 of senior citizens in residential, institutional, and  
16 community settings, is needed.

17 **SEC. 3. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**  
18 **ACT.**

19          Part J of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
20 (42 U.S.C. 280b et seq.) is amended—

21           (1) by redesignating section 393B (as added by  
22 section 1401 of Public Law 106–386) as section  
23 393C and transferring such section so that it ap-  
24 pears after section 393B (as added by section 1301  
25 of Public Law 106–310); and

1           (2) by inserting after section 393C (as redesignig-  
2           nated by paragraph (1)) the following:

3   **“SEC. 393D. PREVENTION OF FALLS AMONG OLDER**  
4           **ADULTS.**

5           “(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

6           “(1) to develop effective public education strate-  
7           gies in a national initiative to reduce falls among  
8           older adults in order to educate older adults, family  
9           members, employers, caregivers, and others;

10          “(2) to intensify services and conduct research  
11          to determine the most effective approaches to pre-  
12          venting and treating falls among older adults; and

13          “(3) to require the Secretary to evaluate the ef-  
14          fect of falls on health care costs, the potential for re-  
15          ducing falls, and the most effective strategies for re-  
16          ducing health care costs associated with falls.

17          “(b) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—The Secretary shall—

18          “(1) oversee and support a national education  
19          campaign to be carried out by a nonprofit organiza-  
20          tion with experience in designing and implementing  
21          national injury prevention programs, that is directed  
22          principally to older adults, their families, and health  
23          care providers, and that focuses on reducing falls  
24          among older adults and preventing repeat falls; and

1           “(2) award grants, contracts, or cooperative  
2 agreements to qualified organizations, institutions,  
3 or consortia of qualified organizations and institu-  
4 tions, for the purpose of organizing State-level coalitions of appropriate State and local agencies, safety,  
5 health, senior citizen, and other organizations to design and carry out local education campaigns, focusing  
6 on reducing falls among older adults and preventing repeat falls.  
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8           “(c) RESEARCH.—

9           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

10           “(A) conduct and support research to—

11           “(i) improve the identification of older  
12 adults who have a high risk of falling;

13           “(ii) improve data collection and analysis to identify fall risk and protective factors;  
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16           “(iii) design, implement, and evaluate  
17 the most effective fall prevention interventions;  
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19           “(iv) improve strategies that are proven to be effective in reducing falls by tailoring these strategies to specific populations of older adults;  
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1           “(v) conduct research in order to  
2           maximize the dissemination of proven, ef-  
3           fective fall prevention interventions;

4           “(vi) intensify proven interventions to  
5           prevent falls among older adults;

6           “(vii) improve the diagnosis, treat-  
7           ment, and rehabilitation of elderly fall vic-  
8           tims and those at high risk for falls; and

9           “(viii) assess the risk of falls occur-  
10          ring in various settings;

11          “(B) conduct research concerning barriers  
12          to the adoption of proven interventions with re-  
13          spect to the prevention of falls among older  
14          adults;

15          “(C) conduct research to develop, imple-  
16          ment, and evaluate the most effective ap-  
17          proaches to reducing falls among high-risk older  
18          adults living in communities and long-term care  
19          and assisted living facilities; and

20          “(D) evaluate the effectiveness of commu-  
21          nity programs designed to prevent falls among  
22          older adults.

23          “(2) EDUCATIONAL SUPPORT.—The Secretary,  
24          either directly or through awarding grants, con-  
25          tracts, or cooperative agreements to qualified organi-

1 zations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organi-  
2 zations and institutions, shall provide professional  
3 education for physicians and allied health profes-  
4 sionals, and aging service providers in fall preven-  
5 tion, evaluation, and management.

6 “(d) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary  
7 shall carry out the following:

8 “(1) Oversee and support demonstration and  
9 research projects to be carried out by qualified orga-  
10 nizations, institutions, or consortia of qualified orga-  
11 nizations and institutions, in the following areas:

12 “(A) A multistate demonstration project  
13 assessing the utility of targeted fall risk screen-  
14 ing and referral programs.

15 “(B) Programs designed for community-  
16 dwelling older adults that utilize multicompo-  
17 nent fall intervention approaches, including  
18 physical activity, medication assessment and re-  
19 duction when possible, vision enhancement, and  
20 home modification strategies.

21 “(C) Programs that are targeted to new  
22 fall victims who are at a high risk for second  
23 falls and which are designed to maximize inde-  
24 pendence and quality of life for older adults,

1 particularly those older adults with functional  
2 limitations.

3 “(D) Private sector and public-private  
4 partnerships to develop technologies to prevent  
5 falls among older adults and prevent or reduce  
6 injuries if falls occur.

7 “(2)(A) Award grants, contracts, or cooperative  
8 agreements to qualified organizations, institutions,  
9 or consortia of qualified organizations and institu-  
10 tions, to design, implement, and evaluate fall preven-  
11 tion programs using proven intervention strategies  
12 in residential and institutional settings.

13 “(B) Award 1 or more grants, contracts, or co-  
14 operative agreements to 1 or more qualified organi-  
15 zations, institutions, or consortia of qualified organi-  
16 zations and institutions, in order to carry out a  
17 multistate demonstration project to implement and  
18 evaluate fall prevention programs using proven inter-  
19 vention strategies designed for single and multi-  
20 family residential settings with high concentrations  
21 of older adults, including—

22 “(i) identifying high-risk populations;

23 “(ii) evaluating residential facilities;

24 “(iii) conducting screening to identify high-  
25 risk individuals;

1           “(iv) providing fall assessment and risk re-  
2           duction interventions and counseling;

3           “(v) coordinating services with health care  
4           and social service providers; and

5           “(vi) coordinating post-fall treatment and  
6           rehabilitation.

7           “(3) Award 1 or more grants, contracts, or co-  
8           operative agreements to qualified organizations, in-  
9           stitutions, or consortia of qualified organizations and  
10          institutions, to conduct evaluations of the effective-  
11          ness of the demonstration projects described in this  
12          subsection.

13          “(e) STUDY OF EFFECTS OF FALLS ON HEALTH  
14          CARE COSTS.—

15                 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall con-  
16                 duct a review of the effects of falls on health care  
17                 costs, the potential for reducing falls, and the most  
18                 effective strategies for reducing health care costs as-  
19                 sociated with falls.

20                 “(2) REPORT.—Not later than 36 months after  
21                 the date of enactment of the Keeping Seniors Safe  
22                 From Falls Act of 2007, the Secretary shall submit  
23                 to Congress a report describing the findings of the  
24                 Secretary in conducting the review under paragraph  
25                 (1).

1       “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In  
2 order to carry out this section, there are authorized to be  
3 appropriated, \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008  
4 through 2010.”.

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