Bone Health Promotion and Research Act of 2011

Bill Summary:

Section 1: Short Title

Bone Health Promotion and Research Act of 2011

Section 2: Findings

Bone health is critical to the overall health and quality of life for Americans. Bones provide mobility, support, and protection for the body and acts as a storehouse for essential minerals. Osteoporosis is a condition in which the bones become weak and can break from a minor fall or, in serious cases, from simple actions such as sneezing. By 2020 1 in 2 Americans over 50 is expected to have or is at risk of developing osteoporosis of the hip, with even more at risk of developing it at any site on the body. Osteoporosis was responsible for more than 2,000,000 fractures in 2005. That number is estimated to rise to 3,000,000 by 2025.

Osteoporosis costs our health care system an estimated \$19,000,000,000 per year. That number is estimated to rise to \$25,300,000,000 per year by 2025. Individuals with certain diseases are at higher risk for developing osteoporosis, such as those with diabetes or cancer. Osteogenesis imperfecta is characterized by fragile bones and frequent fractures. It is estimated to afflict an estimated 40,000 people. Paget's disease of the bone, a geriatric disorder that results in enlarged and deformed bones in one or more parts of the body, afflicts an estimated 700,000 Americans over the age of 60. Lifestyle factors can affect bone health. For example, the chemicals in cigarette smoke are harmful to bone cells and smoking may make it harder to absorb calcium. According to a 2004 Surgeon General report, Americans must be encouraged to: get enough calcium and vitamin D; engage in regular weight-bearing and muscle-strengthening exercise; avoid smoking and excessive alcohol.

Section 3: National Bone Health Program

This section authorizes the Secretary of HHS to develop a National Bone Health Program. Under the program the Center for Disease Control may, directly or through competitive grants to eligible entities, conduct, support, and promote the coordination of research, investigations, demonstrations, training, and studies relating to the control, prevention, and surveillance of osteoporosis and related bone diseases. The Secretary may provide training, technical assistance, supplies, equipment, or services, and may assign any officer or employee of the Department of Health and Human Services to a State or local health agency, or to any public or nonprofit entity in lieu of providing grant funds. The Secretary may provide additional grant support under this subsection to encourage the expansion of research related to the prevention and management of osteoporosis and related bone diseases.

This section also authorizes the Secretary to coordinate and carry out national education and outreach activities, directly or through the provision of grants to eligible entities. Priority will be given to entities that emphasize prevention, early diagnosis, and appropriate management of osteoporosis and related bone disease, and opportunities for effective patient self-management and entities reaching

Bone Health Promotion and Research Act of 2011

high risk or underserved populations. The Secretary may also award grants to States and Native tribes for comprehensive osteoporosis and related bone disease control and prevention programs to provide public health surveillance, prevention, and control activities related to osteoporosis and related bone diseases. The Secretary shall establish a committee to be known as the Osteoporosis and Related Bone Disease Advisory Committee. The Committee will represent numerous aspects of the health field and will advise the Secretary on matters concerning the Program. The Program shall be appropriated \$22,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2013.

Section 4: HHS Research Activities with Respect to Osteoporosis and Related Bone Diseases

The Director of NIH shall expand and intensify programs of the National Institutes of Health with respect to research and related activities concerning osteoporosis and related bone diseases. The Director of NIH shall award planning grants or contracts for the establishment of new research programs, or enhancement of existing research programs, that focus on the previously stated diseases.

For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$250,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2013.

<u>Section 5- Surveillance Activities Related to Bone Diseases at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</u>

This section allows the Secretary to award grants and to enter into cooperative agreements with public or non-profit entities for the collection, analysis, and reporting of data on osteoporosis and related bone diseases. The Secretary may also provide technical assistance in lieu of cash. The Secretary must coordinate with NIH and the Advisory Committee. For the purpose of carrying out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2013.