



**CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE
COST ESTIMATE**

February 11, 2003

H.R. 398
Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities Prevention Act of 2003

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce
on January 28, 2003*

SUMMARY

H.R. 398 would amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and clarify activities conducted by the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The bill would authorize the appropriation of such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years 2003 through 2007 for that purpose. (The previous authorization for the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities expired at the end of fiscal year 2002.) Additionally, the bill would change the allotment formula for grants to State Councils on Developmental Disabilities.

Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts (including annual adjustments for anticipated inflation), CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 398 would cost \$29 million in 2004 and \$350 million over the 2004-2008 period. (Without such inflation adjustments, the change in outlays would total \$340 million over the 2004-2008 period.) Enacting this legislation would not affect direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 398 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 398 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget function 550 (health).

By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars

	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
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SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION

CDC Spending Under Current Law for
Birth Defects and Developmental
Disabilities

Estimated Budget Authority ^a	91	0	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	29	40	16	3	2	0

Proposed Changes^b

Estimated Authorization Level	0	93	95	97	100	0
Estimated Outlays	0	29	71	89	95	66

CDC Spending Under H.R. 398 for Birth
Defects and Developmental Disabilities

Estimated Authorization Level ^a	91	93	95	97	100	0
Estimated Outlays	29	69	87	93	96	66

a. Since no full-year appropriation has been enacted for 2003, the CDC is operating under a continuing resolution. Therefore, the 2003 level equals the amount appropriated for 2002 under CDC's National Center for Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities program.

b. The amounts shown reflect adjustments for anticipated inflation for those activities for which the bill would authorize such sums as necessary. Without such inflation adjustments, the five-year changes in authorization levels would total \$372 million (instead of \$385 million) and the changes in outlays would total \$340 million (instead of \$350 million).

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes H.R. 398 will be enacted by the end of this fiscal year, and that the necessary amounts will be appropriated for each year.

CDC's National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities conducts a range of data collection and research activities related to the prevention of birth defects and developmental disabilities. Those activities include surveillance and monitoring of birth defects and developmental disabilities such as mental retardation, cerebral palsy, and autism, research on the causes of birth defects, and an educational campaign to increase the consumption of folic acid to prevent spina bifida and anencephaly. Other activities focus on surveillance and prevention of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and identification of ways to address the public health needs of persons with disabilities. In fiscal year 2002, the center's appropriation was \$91 million.

H.R. 398 would reauthorize the center's activities for the 2003-2007 period and would provide such sums as may be necessary for that purpose. Additionally, the bill would clarify that the center's activities should encompass data collection on disabilities and health, research on the prevention of birth defects and disabilities and the prevention of secondary health conditions among people with disabilities, and support for a National Spina Bifida program. According to CDC, the center currently conducts those activities. Therefore, the clarifications in H.R. 398 would not result in a broader set of authorized activities, and this estimate assumes full-year funding for 2003 at the continuing resolution level of \$91 million.

Based on the amount appropriated for the center in fiscal year 2002 and taking into account anticipated inflation, CBO estimates that the center would require \$385 million for fiscal years 2004 through 2007. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts and spending consistent with historical outlay rates, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost \$29 million in 2004 and \$350 million over the 2004-2008 period.

H.R. 398 also would make a technical change to the allotment formula for grants to State Councils on Developmental Disabilities, a program in which states use federal grant funds to provide services to individuals with disabilities. CBO estimates this change would have no effect on federal spending.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 398 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Jeanne De Sa

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Leo Lex

Impact on the Private Sector: Samuel Kina

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis