

## **Esteemed Senator Introduces a Bill Creating an Office of Men's Health**

*Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC), 97, attributes his longevity to a healthy lifestyle:  
Encourages American men to do the same.*

July 27, 2000 – Washington, DC – Yesterday, Senator Strom Thurmond (R-SC), introduced a bill on the floor of the U.S. Senate, S. 2925, which will establish an Office of Men's Health (OMH) within the Department of Health and Human Services. A long time champion of men's health issues, Thurmond at age 97 is living proof that our nation's predominately silent men's health crisis can be put to an end. Sen. Thurmond also worked to pass National Men's Health Week in 1994, which is celebrated annually as the week leading up to and including Father's Day. This week has been set aside to celebrate men's health as an important family issue.

"I am honored that Senator Strom Thurmond, the longest-serving Senator in history, is introducing a companion bill to the Men's Health Act of 2000, which I introduced in the House. As one of the thousands of men who have been saved from prostate cancer by a simple PSA test, I understand the importance of regular health screenings for men," said Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham. "Senator Thurmond's health and longevity are a testament to the fact that awareness and regular examinations will help thousands of men lead happy and healthy lives with their families."

Men's health advocates support this legislation noting that men's health is an important family issue. The Men's Health Network, a DC-based, non-profit organization strongly supports this legislation and the positive affect it will have on men and their families.

"Most of the health issues that affect men also affect women and children. There is currently a longevity gap between the genders. Men are dying at disproportionate rates in all the top 10 leading causes of death. This Office of Men's Health is a tremendous first step in addressing this disparity", said Jean Bonhomme, M.D., M.P.H., Board member of Men's Health Network and founder of the National Black Men's Health Network.

The Office of Men's Health will mirror the work of the existing Office of Women's Health which has helped to save the lives of thousands of women and has improved the lives of many more. This office is needed to coordinate the fragmented men's health awareness, prevention, and research efforts now being conducted by federal and state government. An Office of Men's Health will be well placed to coordinate outreach and awareness efforts on the federal and state levels, promote preventative health behaviors, and provide a vehicle whereby researchers on men's health can network and share information and findings.

The Men's Health Network is a non-profit, educational organization committed to increasing awareness for men's health concerns nationwide. For more information please call Megan Smith at 202.543-MHN.1 (6461) or refer to the Men's Health Network website: [www.menshealthnetwork.org](http://www.menshealthnetwork.org)

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