

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3432

To require the Secretary of Education to enter into an agreement with the National Academies to conduct a study on the possible mental health effects of a lockdown drill or active shooter drill in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER (for himself, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Education to enter into an agreement with the National Academies to conduct a study on the possible mental health effects of a lockdown drill or active shooter drill in elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

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 “School Safety Drill
5 Research Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The Pew Research Center found that 57
2 percent of teenage students worry about the possi-
3 bility of a shooting happening at their school.

4 (2) The National Center for Education Statis-
5 tics found that 96 percent of public schools in the
6 United States conducted lockdown drills in 2015 and
7 2016.

8 (3) According to Steve Schlozman, a professor
9 of psychiatry at Harvard Medical School, children in
10 proximity to frightening circumstances are at risk
11 for lasting symptoms, including “everything from
12 worsening academic and social progression to de-
13 pression, anxiety, poor sleep, post-traumatic symp-
14 tomatology and substance abuse.”.

15 **SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT ON MENTAL EFFECTS OF**
16 **LOCKDOWN DRILL OR ACTIVE SHOOTER**
17 **DRILL IN ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY**
18 **SCHOOLS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall
20 enter into an agreement with the National Academies of
21 Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under which the Na-
22 tional Academies shall conduct a study on the mental
23 health effects resulting from a lockdown drill or active
24 shooter drill in elementary and secondary schools.

1 (b) ELEMENTS.—The study conducted under sub-
2 section (a) shall include—

3 (1) an assessment of the extent to which a
4 lockdown drill or active shooter drill results in ad-
5 verse psychological effects on students, faculty, and
6 staff of elementary and secondary schools;

7 (2) a comparison of the mental effects of a
8 lockdown drill or active shooter drill, including—

9 (A) the effects of active shooter simula-
10 tions, full-scale lockdowns, and secured-perim-
11 eter lockouts;

12 (B) the effects of announced versus unan-
13 nounced drills; and

14 (C) the effects of drills of varying fre-
15 quencies;

16 (3) an analysis of the effects of a lockdown drill
17 or active shooter drill on—

18 (A) students of different ages or grade lev-
19 els; and

20 (B) students with intellectual or develop-
21 mental disabilities;

22 (4) the identification of best practices for—

23 (A) accommodating—

24 (i) students of different ages and
25 grade levels;

- 1 (ii) students and staff with a history
2 of prior trauma;
- 3 (iii) students for whom English is a
4 second language; and
- 5 (iv) students with developmental and
6 physical disabilities;
- 7 (B) training faculty and staff to recognize
8 traumatic stress reactions;
- 9 (C) the provision of mental health supports
10 during and after a drill by a school-based men-
11 tal health services provider;
- 12 (D) discussing school violence with stu-
13 dents; and
- 14 (E) keeping parents and the community in-
15 formed about drills, including—
- 16 (i) the type of information commu-
17 nicated to parents, emergency dispatchers,
18 and the community before and after a drill;
19 and
- 20 (ii) the resources given to assist par-
21 ents in talking with children about con-
22 cerns or fears related to violence at school;
23 and

1 (5) an analysis of other studies and reports ex-
2 amining the effects of a lockdown drill or active
3 shooter drill on student and staff mental health.

4 (c) REPORT.—The agreement entered into under sub-
5 section (a) shall include a requirement that, not later than
6 18 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the
7 National Academies shall—

8 (1) compile a report on the results of the study
9 conducted under subsection (a);

10 (2) make such report publicly available on the
11 website of the National Academies; and

12 (3) provide a briefing to Congress on the results
13 of the study conducted under subsection (a).

14 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
15 authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 to carry out this
16 Act.

17 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the following defini-
18 tions apply:

19 (1) ACTIVE SHOOTER SIMULATION.—The term
20 “active shooter simulation” means a drill in which
21 acts mimicking an active shooter situation are simu-
22 lated, including any of the following:

23 (A) The activation of emergency alarms.

1 (B) The presence of an active shooter or
2 law enforcement officer, or both, inside a
3 school.

4 (C) The firing of a gun with blanks.

5 (D) The sound of a gun being fired.

6 (E) An attempt by an intruder to breach
7 classroom doors inside a school.

8 (F) The expectation that individuals inside
9 the school will fight an intruder.

10 (2) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.—The term “elemen-
11 tary school” has the meaning given the term in sec-
12 tion 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
13 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

14 (3) FULL-SCALE LOCKDOWN.—The term “full-
15 scale lockdown” means a drill in which all doors of
16 a school are locked, all windows of the school are
17 covered, and students and faculty must remain silent
18 and hidden, but in which an active shooter is not
19 simulated.

20 (4) LOCKDOWN DRILL OR ACTIVE SHOOTER
21 DRILL.—The term “lockdown drill or active shooter
22 drill” means a procedure in which a school practices
23 an emergency protocol designed to protect students
24 and faculty against assault by an armed assailant.

1 (5) MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDER.—
2 The term “mental health services provider” means a
3 State-licensed or State-certified school counselor,
4 school psychologist, or school social worker, or a
5 mental health professional qualified under State law
6 to provide mental health services to children and
7 adolescents.

8 (6) SECONDARY SCHOOL.—The term “sec-
9 ondary school” has the meaning given the term in
10 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-
11 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

12 (7) SECURED-PERIMETER LOCKOUT.—The term
13 “secured-perimeter lockout” means a drill in which
14 the outside building doors of a school are locked and
15 there is no entry or exit allowed to or from the
16 school, but teachers continue with instruction.

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