

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2873

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to establish or expand programs and activities to increase access to high-quality culturally competent trauma support and mental health care, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Mr. COONS (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. DURBIN) 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 require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to establish or expand programs and activities to increase access to high-quality culturally competent trauma support and mental health care, 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 “Preventing and Ad-  
5       dressing Trauma with Health Services Act” or the  
6       “PATHS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR HIGH-QUALITY CULTURALLY COM-**  
2 **PETENT TRAUMA SUPPORT AND MENTAL**  
3 **HEALTH SERVICES.**

4 Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act  
5 (42 U.S.C. 290dd et seq.) is amended by adding at the  
6 end the following:

7 **“SEC. 553. GRANTS FOR HIGH-QUALITY CULTURALLY COM-**  
8 **PETENT TRAUMA SUPPORT AND MENTAL**  
9 **HEALTH SERVICES.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
11 the Assistant Secretary and in consultation with the heads  
12 of other relevant Federal agencies, shall award grants to  
13 eligible entities to establish or expand programs and ac-  
14 tivities for the purpose of increasing access to high-quality  
15 culturally competent trauma support and mental health  
16 care for covered individuals in covered communities.

17 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible for a grant  
18 under this section, an entity shall be—

19 “(1) a nonprofit or community-based program  
20 or organization that—

21 “(A) provides or has developed plans to  
22 provide culturally competent programs and re-  
23 sources that are aligned with evidence-based or  
24 evidence-informed practices for trauma-in-  
25 formed mental health care; and

1 “(B) has demonstrated expertise in serving  
2 covered communities;

3 “(2) a Federal, State, or local agency, such as  
4 a public health, mental health, law enforcement, or  
5 social services agency, that conducts activities (which  
6 may be through partnering with a nonprofit or com-  
7 munity-based organization) to, in a covered commu-  
8 nity, screen individuals for mental health needs, as-  
9 sess such needs, and provide mental health services  
10 or referrals to such services; or

11 “(3) a hospital, health care clinic, or other  
12 health care institution that provides to a covered  
13 community culturally competent programs, mental  
14 health services, and resources that are aligned with  
15 evidence-based or evidence-informed practices for  
16 trauma-informed mental health care.

17 “(c) APPLICATIONS; PREFERENCE; PERIOD.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring a  
19 grant under this section shall submit to the Sec-  
20 retary an application at such time, in such manner,  
21 and containing such information as the Secretary  
22 may reasonably require.

23 “(2) PREFERENCE.—In selecting applicants for  
24 a grant under this section, the Secretary may give  
25 preference to eligible entities that—

1           “(A) demonstrate they have established a  
 2           partnership with another eligible entity or serv-  
 3           ice provider in a covered community; or

4           “(B) are community health centers or fed-  
 5           erally qualified health centers.

6           “(3) PERIOD.—Each grant awarded under this  
 7           section shall be for a period of 5 years, with equal  
 8           amounts awarded to the recipient through the grant  
 9           for each of such 5 years.

10          “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
 11       a grant under subsection (a)—

12           “(1) shall use the funds to increase access to or  
 13           provide evidence-based or evidence-informed, trau-  
 14           ma-informed mental health services to covered indi-  
 15           viduals in a covered community; and

16           “(2) may use the grant funds to—

17           “(A) establish and maintain programming  
 18           to provide culturally competent mental health  
 19           services;

20           “(B) hire and retain mental health care  
 21           providers;

22           “(C) train mental health care providers on  
 23           culturally competent trauma-informed care  
 24           strategies;

1           “(D) develop strategies and projects to en-  
2           hance access to trauma-informed care and re-  
3           sources for covered individuals in a covered  
4           community;

5           “(E) establish partnerships with other eli-  
6           gible entities to develop and enhance effective  
7           strategies to provide trauma-informed mental  
8           health services to covered individuals in a cov-  
9           ered community;

10          “(F) develop strategies and training for  
11          law enforcement officers or other first respond-  
12          ers to provide referral services to covered indi-  
13          viduals in a covered community to trauma-in-  
14          formed mental health services;

15          “(G) build public awareness and education  
16          about trauma-informed mental health services  
17          in a covered community; and

18          “(H) build public awareness and education  
19          in a covered community about the importance  
20          of addressing trauma resulting from gun vio-  
21          lence.

22          “(e) EVALUATION.—

23               “(1) GRANT RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS.—An  
24               eligible entity that receives a grant under this sec-  
25               tion shall—

1           “(A) develop metrics and key performance  
2 indicators to assess outcomes achieved by pro-  
3 grams or activities funded through such grant;  
4 and

5           “(B) not later than the date that is 2  
6 years after the day on which the entity receives  
7 such grant, and 1 year after such date, submit  
8 to the Secretary a report that details—

9           “(i) the metrics and key performance  
10 indicators used to assess outcomes  
11 achieved by such programs or activities;

12           “(ii) the process used to identify and  
13 develop such metrics and key performance  
14 indicators; and

15           “(iii) an assessment of the outcomes  
16 achieved by such programs or activities.

17           “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than  
18 the date that is 3 years after the date of enactment  
19 of this section, and each year thereafter through fis-  
20 cal year 2026, the Secretary shall conduct an eval-  
21 uation of the programs or activities funded by a  
22 grant under this section and submit a report of the  
23 results of such evaluation to Congress.

24           “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) COVERED COMMUNITY.—The term ‘cov-  
2       ered community’ means a community that has an  
3       age-adjusted rate of violence-related (or intentional)  
4       injury deaths that is above the national average, as  
5       determined by the Director of the Centers for Dis-  
6       ease Control and Prevention.

7           “(2) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘cov-  
8       ered individual’ means an individual who has been  
9       injured, has witnessed, has been threatened, has  
10      been exposed to, or has been otherwise impacted by  
11      gun violence within the 5 years preceding the date  
12      of enactment of this section.

13       “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
14      carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-  
15      priated \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022  
16      through 2026.”.

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