

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3628

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to promote comprehensive mental health and suicide prevention efforts in schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 10, 2022

Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to promote comprehensive mental health and suicide prevention efforts in 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 “Youth Mental Health
5 and Suicide Prevention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. COORDINATED PROMOTION OF SCHOOL COM-**
2 **PREHENSIVE MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE**
3 **PREVENTION PLANS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
5 Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the
6 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administra-
7 tion, may carry out a program to award grants, on a com-
8 petitive basis, to eligible entities to enhance services for
9 school-age youth with mental health and behavioral health
10 issues that can lead to low academic proficiency, low rates
11 of school attendance and graduation, and other negative
12 outcomes, including depression, substance abuse, and sui-
13 cide attempts.

14 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant under
15 this section, an eligible entity shall submit to the Secretary
16 an application in such form, at such time, and containing
17 such information as the Secretary determines appropriate,
18 including, at a minimum—

19 (1) a description of identified mental health and
20 behavioral health needs of school-age youth served
21 by such eligible entity;

22 (2) a description of revenue from Federal,
23 State, local, private, and institutional sources the eli-
24 gible entity has available to address the needs de-
25 scribed in paragraph (1);

1 (3) a description of the eligible entity's pro-
2 posed plan for using the grant funds to increase ac-
3 cess to evidence-based mental and behavioral health
4 services;

5 (4) a description of the eligible entity's pro-
6 posed plan for improving mental health equity and
7 assisting school-age youth most in need of mental
8 health services;

9 (5) a description of how such eligible entity will
10 involve, as appropriate, school-age youth and peer
11 representatives in the planning, implementation, and
12 evaluation processes related to the use of grant
13 funds and for purposes of achieving mental health
14 equity;

15 (6) a description of how such eligible entity will
16 support other school-age youth and the school com-
17 munity if a school-age youth attempts suicide or dies
18 by suicide;

19 (7) a plan to—

20 (A) implement the activities described in
21 subsection (c); and

22 (B) evaluate the outcomes of such activi-
23 ties; and

1 (8) an assurance that such eligible entity will
2 submit to the Secretary, for each fiscal year in which
3 grant funds are used, a report with respect to—

4 (A) the activities carried out under sub-
5 section (c); and

6 (B) the outcomes of such activities, re-
7 ported in accordance with the requirements of
8 section 444 of the General Education Provi-
9 sions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g; commonly known
10 as the “Family Educational Rights and Privacy
11 Act of 1974”).

12 (c) ALLOWABLE USES OF GRANT FUNDS.—A grant
13 awarded under this section may be used by an eligible enti-
14 ty for—

15 (1) evaluating existing program activities and
16 prevention strategies;

17 (2) educational seminars;

18 (3) educational awareness campaign materials
19 for school-age youth, families of school-age youth,
20 and school staff to increase the awareness of poten-
21 tial mental and behavioral health issues of school-
22 age youth;

23 (4) peer-to-peer program support;

24 (5) programs that assist schools in adopting a
25 public health approach to mental health;

1 (6) social media applications used for mental
2 and behavioral health purposes, such as suicide risk
3 and mental health screenings;

4 (7) providing mental health services for school-
5 age youth through telehealth;

6 (8) training programs for school-age youth and
7 teachers, school leaders, and other school personnel
8 to learn to respond effectively to school-age youth
9 with mental health and behavioral health issues that
10 can lead to low academic proficiency, low rates of
11 school attendance and graduation, and other nega-
12 tive outcomes, including depression, substance
13 abuse, and suicide attempts; and

14 (9) providing culturally specific mental health
15 and substance use education and prevention pro-
16 grams for school-age youth.

17 (d) GEOGRAPHICAL REPRESENTATION.—In awarding
18 grants under this section, the Secretary shall ensure that
19 grant funds are distributed with the greatest possible geo-
20 graphical representation, including to State and local edu-
21 cational agencies that serve rural areas.

22 (e) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
23 provide technical assistance to grantees in carrying out
24 this section.

25 (f) STUDY AND REPORT.—

1 (1) STUDY.—For each fiscal year during which
 2 grants are awarded under this section, the Secretary
 3 shall conduct a study on the results of the grant
 4 program.

5 (2) REPORT.—For each study conducted under
 6 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to Con-
 7 gress a report on the results of such study, includ-
 8 ing—

9 (A) an evaluation of the outcomes of the
 10 grant program, including a summary of activi-
 11 ties carried out by eligible entities and the re-
 12 sults of such activities; and

13 (B) recommendations with respect to im-
 14 proving access to mental health and behavioral
 15 heath services at schools, including efforts to
 16 reduce the occurrence of suicide and substance
 17 abuse.

18 (g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

19 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
 20 ty” means—

21 (A) a local educational agency;

22 (B) a State educational agency; or

23 (C) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organization.

24 (2) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “local edu-
 25 cational agency” and “State educational agency”

1 have the meanings given such terms in section 8101
2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
3 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

4 (3) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—
5 The terms “Indian Tribe” and “Tribal organiza-
6 tion” have the meanings given the terms “Indian
7 tribe” and “tribal organization”, respectively, in sec-
8 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
9 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304).

10 (4) SCHOOL-AGE YOUTH.—The term “school-
11 age youth” means—

12 (A) individuals between the ages of 5 and
13 17, inclusive; and

14 (B) children with disabilities, as defined in
15 section 602(3) of the Individuals with Disabil-
16 ities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1401(3)), who
17 receive services under part B of such Act (20
18 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.).

19 (5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
20 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in
21 consultation with the Secretary of Education and
22 the heads of other appropriate agencies.

23 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
2 appropriated such sums as may be necessary to
3 carry out this section.

4 (2) SET-ASIDE.—Of the amount appropriated
5 to carry out this section for a fiscal year, 10 percent
6 shall be reserved for grants to eligible entities that
7 serve Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations.

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