

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4970

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to promote comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2022

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MURPHY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to promote comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans, 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 “Enhancing Mental
5 Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENCOURAGING CAMPUS COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL**
2 **HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PLANS.**

3 Part L of title VIII of the Higher Education Act of
4 1965 (20 U.S.C. 11611 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating section 826 as section 827;

6 and

7 (2) by inserting after section 825 the following
8 new section:

9 **“SEC. 826. ENCOURAGING CAMPUS COMPREHENSIVE MEN-**
10 **TAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**
11 **PLANS.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make efforts
13 to encourage institutions of higher education to develop
14 and implement comprehensive campus mental health and
15 suicide prevention plans. Such efforts—

16 “(1) shall be conducted in coordination with the
17 Secretary of Health and Human Services (acting
18 through the Administrator of the Substance Abuse
19 and Mental Health Services Administration);

20 “(2) shall align with—

21 “(A) the efforts of the Suicide Prevention
22 Resource Center, specifically the Center’s model
23 of nine strategies that form a comprehensive
24 approach to suicide prevention;

25 “(B) the 21st Century Cures Act (Public
26 Law 114–225); and

1 “(C) the programs authorized under the
2 Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (42 U.S.C.
3 201 note; Public Law 108–355);

4 “(3) shall take into consideration existing State
5 efforts to address mental health and suicide preven-
6 tion at institutions of higher education; and

7 “(4) may be carried out in collaboration with
8 nonprofit organizations and other experts and stake-
9 holders in the field of campus mental health and sui-
10 cide prevention.

11 “(b) REPORTS.—The Secretary, or a designee of the
12 Secretary, shall report to Congress on the efforts of the
13 Secretary carried out under this section—

14 “(1) not later than 1 year after the date of en-
15 actment of the Enhancing Mental Health and Sui-
16 cide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act; and

17 “(2) 3 years after the date of enactment of
18 such Act.

19 “(c) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall
20 be construed as creating new statutory requirements for
21 institutions of higher education or granting the Secretary
22 new regulatory authority.”.

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