

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1689

To authorize the Secretary of Education, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award grants to eligible entities to support the mental and behavioral health of elementary and secondary school students, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2023

Ms. SPANBERGER (for herself and Mr. FITZPATRICK) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Education, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award grants to eligible entities to support the mental and behavioral health of elementary and secondary school students, 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 “Connecting Students
5 with Mental Health Services Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO SUPPORT MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL**
2 **HEALTH OF ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY**
3 **SCHOOL STUDENTS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education, in
5 coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human
6 Services, shall carry out a program consisting of awarding
7 grants to eligible entities to support the mental and behav-
8 ioral health of students in elementary schools and sec-
9 ondary schools, especially such students who reside in
10 rural areas or lack access to mental and behavioral health
11 services.

12 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a
13 grant under this section shall use the grant for resources
14 to support the mental and behavioral health of students
15 in elementary schools and secondary schools, which may
16 include—

17 (1) purchasing or upgrading equipment (which
18 may include physical equipment and technology) to
19 implement a telehealth program that includes mental
20 and behavioral health care;

21 (2) ensuring sufficient space and personnel to
22 support such a telehealth program in one or more
23 schools; and

24 (3) hiring, or providing additional compensation
25 for, staff to help administer such a telehealth pro-
26 gram.

1 (c) APPLICATION.—

2 (1) SUBMISSION.—To seek a grant under this
3 section, an eligible entity shall submit an application
4 to the Secretary of Education at such time, in such
5 manner, and containing such information and assur-
6 ances as the Secretary may require.

7 (2) CONTENTS.—Each such application shall
8 include a plan—

9 (A) detailing the applicant’s proposed tele-
10 health program that includes mental and behav-
11 ioral health care, to be supported through the
12 plan; and

13 (B) providing assurances that any collec-
14 tion, maintenance, or use of student informa-
15 tion through such telehealth program will be in
16 accordance with applicable privacy laws.

17 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
18 tion, the Secretary of Education shall give priority to eligi-
19 ble entities that—

20 (1) submit an application in accordance with
21 subsection (c); and

22 (2) serve—

23 (A) high-poverty elementary schools and
24 secondary schools;

1 (B) rural elementary schools and sec-
2 ondary schools; or

3 (C) elementary schools and secondary
4 schools that are located in a health professional
5 shortage area designated under section 332 of
6 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
7 254e).

8 (e) TIMING.—The Secretary of Education shall estab-
9 lish the program required by subsection (a) not later than
10 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

11 (f) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made
12 available under this section shall be used to supplement
13 and not supplant other Federal, State, and local funds
14 provided for activities funded under this section.

15 (g) REPORT.—Not later than September 30, 2025,
16 the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health
17 and Human Services, acting jointly, shall submit to the
18 Congress and make publicly available a report including—

19 (1) analysis on the impact of the program
20 under this section (in a manner that does not in-
21 clude information that would reveal personally iden-
22 tifiable information about an individual student)—

23 (A) on the number of students in elemen-
24 tary schools and secondary schools receiving
25 health care (including behavioral and mental

1 health services) through a telehealth program;
2 and

3 (B) on the number of such students receiv-
4 ing behavioral and mental health services
5 through a telehealth program; and

6 (2) recommendations for the reauthorization,
7 expansion, and improvement of the program under
8 this section.

9 (h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 (1) The term “community health care pro-
11 vider”—

12 (A) subject to subparagraph (B), includes
13 a university health care system; and

14 (B) excludes any provider that does not ac-
15 cept payment under a State plan (or waiver of
16 such plan) under title XIX of the Social Secu-
17 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.).

18 (2) The terms “educational service agency”,
19 “elementary school”, “local educational agency”,
20 and “secondary school” have the meanings given to
21 those terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and
22 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

23 (3) The term “eligible entity” means a partner-
24 ship between—

1 (A) a local educational agency or a consor-
2 tium of any such agencies; and

3 (B) a community health care provider or
4 an educational service agency.

5 (4) The term “telehealth” means the use of
6 electronic information and telecommunications tech-
7 nologies to support long-distance clinical health care,
8 patient and professional health-related education,
9 public health, and health administration.

10 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
11 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
12 \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2027.

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