

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9822

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to extend eligibility for grants to elementary and secondary schools, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 25, 2024

Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title V of the Public Health Service Act to extend eligibility for grants to 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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Improving Brain Health in Schools Act”.

6 (b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

7 (1) Brain health is defined as the biological,
8 neurological, and physical characteristics of the
9 brain affecting a person’s health and demeanor.

1 (2) Terminology such as “mental health” or
2 “mental illness” can have negative connotations that
3 deter children from seeking treatment. Using “brain
4 health” or “brain illness” instead can help reduce
5 the stigma and encourage seeking treatment.

6 (3) Children who have their brain health needs
7 met tend to have positive outcomes regarding their
8 social and academic development. Addressing brain
9 health can enhance their ability to focus, learn, and
10 interact positively with peers and adults.

11 (4) Over 1 in 5 children have a brain health
12 condition, yet the majority do not receive the nec-
13 essary assistance.

14 (5) It is critical for Congress to take steps to
15 reduce the stigma associated with brain health con-
16 ditions and find ways to encourage children and
17 their families to seek access to brain health treat-
18 ments and preventative care.

19 **SEC. 2. EXTENDING GRANT ELIGIBILITY TO ELEMENTARY**
20 **AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS.**

21 Section 520E–2 of the Public Health Service Act (42
22 U.S.C. 290bb–36b) is amended—

23 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**IN**
24 **HIGHER EDUCATION**”;

1 (2) in subsection (a), by inserting “elementary
2 schools, secondary schools, and” after “competitive
3 basis to”;

4 (3) in subsection (b)—

5 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph
6 (1)—

7 (i) by inserting “an elementary school,
8 secondary school, or” after “grant to”; and

9 (ii) by inserting “the school or” after
10 “unless”; and

11 (B) by adding at the end the following:

12 “(13) Establishing brain health retreat
13 rooms.”;

14 (4) in subsection (c)—

15 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
16 by inserting “elementary school, secondary
17 school, or” after “Any”;

18 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “or” at
19 the end;

20 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking the pe-
21 riod at the end and inserting “; or”; and

22 (D) by adding at the end the following:

23 “(6) elementary schools and secondary
24 schools.”;

25 (5) in subsection (d)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),
2 by inserting “an elementary school or secondary
3 school or” after “under this section,”;

4 (B) in each of paragraphs (1), (2), and
5 (3), by striking “the institution of higher edu-
6 cation” and inserting “the elementary school,
7 the secondary school, or the institution of high-
8 er education”;

9 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “the in-
10 stitution” and inserting “the school or institu-
11 tion”; and

12 (D) in paragraph (7), by striking “For an
13 institution of higher education proposing” and
14 inserting “For an elementary school, secondary
15 school, or institution of higher education pro-
16 posing”;

17 (6) in subsection (e)(1), by inserting “elemen-
18 tary school, secondary school, or” after “grant under
19 this section to an”; and

20 (7) in subsection (g)—

21 (A) in the subsection heading, by striking
22 “DEFINITION” and inserting “DEFINITIONS”;

23 (B) by striking “section, the term” and in-
24 serting the following: “section—

1 “(1) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
2 The term”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(2) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL; SECONDARY
5 SCHOOL.—The terms ‘elementary school’ and ‘sec-
6 ondary school’ have the meanings given such terms
7 in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary
8 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

9 “(3) BRAIN HEALTH RETREAT ROOM.—The
10 term ‘brain health retreat room’ means a room in
11 which students—

12 “(A) can learn coping strategies to help
13 them navigate the stresses of school; and

14 “(B) can connect with the resources they
15 need to help better manage their mental
16 health.”.

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