

Suspend the Rules and Pass the Bill, H.R. 721, with an Amendment

(The amendment strikes all after the enacting clause and inserts a new text)

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 721

To amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 2, 2021

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. TITUS, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. DEAN, Mr. MOULTON, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SABLAN, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. RYAN, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. RASKIN, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CROW, Ms. PORTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. LIEU, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. TORRES of California, Ms. WILD, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. TRONE, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. PANNETTA, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. MCNERNEY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. SIRES, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. CHU, Mr. MAST, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. POCAN, and Mr. HASTINGS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend

projects relating to children and to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

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 “Mental Health Services
5 for Students Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**
7 **ACT.**

8 (a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The second part G
9 (relating to services provided through religious organiza-
10 tions) of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42
11 U.S.C. 290kk et seq.) is amended—

12 (1) by redesignating such part as part J; and

13 (2) by redesignating sections 581 through 584
14 as sections 596 through 596C, respectively.

15 (b) SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH AND CHIL-
16 DREN.—Section 581 of the Public Health Service Act (42
17 U.S.C. 290hh) (relating to children and violence) is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 **“SEC. 581. SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH; CHILDREN**
20 **AND ADOLESCENTS.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
22 with the Secretary of Education, shall, through grants,
23 contracts, or cooperative agreements awarded to eligible
24 entities described in subsection (c), provide comprehensive

1 school-based mental health services and supports to assist
2 children in local communities and schools (including
3 schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education) deal-
4 ing with traumatic experiences, grief, bereavement, risk of
5 suicide, and violence. Such services and supports shall
6 be—

7 “(1) developmentally, linguistically, and cul-
8 turally appropriate;

9 “(2) trauma-informed; and

10 “(3) incorporate positive behavioral interven-
11 tions and supports.

12 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—Grants, contracts, or cooperative
13 agreements awarded under subsection (a), shall, as appro-
14 priate, be used for—

15 “(1) implementation of school and community-
16 based mental health programs that—

17 “(A) build awareness of individual trauma
18 and the intergenerational, continuum of impacts
19 of trauma on populations;

20 “(B) train appropriate staff to identify,
21 and screen for, signs of trauma exposure, men-
22 tal health disorders, or risk of suicide; and

23 “(C) incorporate positive behavioral inter-
24 ventions, family engagement, student treatment,
25 and multigenerational supports to foster the

1 health and development of children, prevent
2 mental health disorders, and ameliorate the im-
3 pact of trauma;

4 “(2) technical assistance to local communities
5 with respect to the development of programs de-
6 scribed in paragraph (1);

7 “(3) facilitating community partnerships among
8 families, students, law enforcement agencies, edu-
9 cation agencies, mental health and substance use
10 disorder service systems, family-based mental health
11 service systems, child welfare agencies, health care
12 providers (including primary care physicians, mental
13 health professionals, and other professionals who
14 specialize in children’s mental health such as child
15 and adolescent psychiatrists), institutions of higher
16 education, faith-based programs, trauma networks,
17 and other community-based systems to address child
18 and adolescent trauma, mental health issues, and vi-
19 olence; and

20 “(4) establishing mechanisms for children and
21 adolescents to report incidents of violence or plans
22 by other children, adolescents, or adults to commit
23 violence.

24 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant,
2 contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection
3 (a), an entity shall be a partnership that includes—

4 “(A) a State educational agency, as de-
5 fined in section 8101 of the Elementary and
6 Secondary Education Act of 1965, in coordina-
7 tion with one or more local educational agen-
8 cies, as defined in section 8101 of the Elemen-
9 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, or
10 a consortium of any entities described in sub-
11 paragraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of section
12 8101(30) of such Act; and

13 “(B) at least 1 community-based mental
14 health provider, including a public or private
15 mental health entity, health care entity, family-
16 based mental health entity, trauma network, or
17 other community-based entity, as determined by
18 the Secretary (and which may include addi-
19 tional entities such as a human services agency,
20 law enforcement or juvenile justice entity, child
21 welfare agency, agency, an institution of higher
22 education, or another entity, as determined by
23 the Secretary).

24 “(2) COMPLIANCE WITH HIPAA.—Any patient
25 records developed by covered entities through activi-

1 ties under the grant shall meet the regulations pro-
2 mulgated under section 264(c) of the Health Insur-
3 ance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

4 “(3) COMPLIANCE WITH FERPA.—Section 444
5 of the General Education Provisions Act (commonly
6 known as the ‘Family Educational Rights and Pri-
7 vacy Act of 1974’) shall apply to any entity that is
8 a member of the partnership in the same manner
9 that such section applies to an educational agency or
10 institution (as that term is defined in such section).

11 “(d) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary
12 shall ensure that grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
13 ments under subsection (a) will be distributed equitably
14 among the regions of the country and among urban and
15 rural areas.

16 “(e) DURATION OF AWARDS.—With respect to a
17 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under sub-
18 section (a), the period during which payments under such
19 an award will be made to the recipient shall be 5 years,
20 with options for renewal.

21 “(f) EVALUATION AND MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—

22 “(1) DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS.—The Assist-
23 ant Secretary shall develop a fiscally appropriate
24 process for evaluating activities carried out under
25 this section. Such process shall include—

1 “(A) the development of guidelines for the
2 submission of program data by grant, contract,
3 or cooperative agreement recipients;

4 “(B) the development of measures of out-
5 comes (in accordance with paragraph (2)) to be
6 applied by such recipients in evaluating pro-
7 grams carried out under this section; and

8 “(C) the submission of annual reports by
9 such recipients concerning the effectiveness of
10 programs carried out under this section.

11 “(2) MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—The Assistant
12 Secretary shall develop measures of outcomes to be
13 applied by recipients of assistance under this section
14 to evaluate the effectiveness of programs carried out
15 under this section, including outcomes related to the
16 student, family, and local educational systems sup-
17 ported by this Act.

18 “(3) SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL DATA.—An eligi-
19 ble entity described in subsection (c) that receives a
20 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this
21 section shall annually submit to the Assistant Sec-
22 retary a report that includes data to evaluate the
23 success of the program carried out by the entity
24 based on whether such program is achieving the pur-
25 poses of the program. Such reports shall utilize the

1 measures of outcomes under paragraph (2) in a rea-
2 sonable manner to demonstrate the progress of the
3 program in achieving such purposes.

4 “(4) EVALUATION BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—
5 Based on the data submitted under paragraph (3),
6 the Assistant Secretary shall annually submit to
7 Congress a report concerning the results and effec-
8 tiveness of the programs carried out with assistance
9 received under this section.

10 “(5) LIMITATION.—An eligible entity shall use
11 not more than 20 percent of amounts received under
12 a grant under this section to carry out evaluation
13 activities under this subsection.

14 “(g) INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.—The Sec-
15 retary shall disseminate best practices based on the find-
16 ings of the knowledge development and application under
17 this section.

18 “(h) AMOUNT OF GRANTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF
19 APPROPRIATIONS.—

20 “(1) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—A grant under this
21 section shall be in an amount that is not more than
22 \$2,000,000 for each of the first 5 fiscal years fol-
23 lowing the date of enactment of the Mental Health
24 Services for Students Act of 2021. The Secretary
25 shall determine the amount of each such grant based

1 on the population of children up to age 21 of the
2 area to be served under the grant.

3 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
5 this section, \$130,000,000 for each of fiscal years
6 2022 through 2025.”.

7 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Part G of title V of
8 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh et seq.),
9 as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by strik-
10 ing the part designation and heading and inserting the
11 following:

12 **“PART G—SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH”.**