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H. R. 1667

[Report No. 117-]

To address behavioral health and well-being among health care professionals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2021

Ms. WILD (for herself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. UPTON, Ms. CHU, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CASE, Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. LEE of California, and Mr. STANTON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

DECEMBER --, 2021

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on March 8, 2021]

A BILL

To address behavioral health and well-being among health
care professionals.

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 “Dr. Lorna Breen Health*
5 *Care Provider Protection Act”.*

6 **SEC. 2. DISSEMINATION OF BEST PRACTICES.**

7 *Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment*
8 *of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services*
9 *(referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall identify*
10 *and disseminate evidence-based or evidence-informed best*
11 *practices for preventing suicide and improving mental*
12 *health and resiliency among health care professionals, and*
13 *for training health care professionals in appropriate strate-*
14 *gies to promote their mental health. Such best practices*
15 *shall include recommendations related to preventing suicide*
16 *and improving mental health and resiliency among health*
17 *care professionals.*

18 **SEC. 3. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE ENCOUR-**
19 **AGING USE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUB-**
20 **STANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES BY**
21 **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

22 *(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation with*
23 *relevant stakeholders, including medical professional asso-*
24 *ciations, shall establish a national evidence-based or evi-*
25 *dence-informed education and awareness initiative—*

1 (1) *to encourage health care professionals to seek*
2 *support and care for their mental health or substance*
3 *use concerns, to help such professionals identify risk*
4 *factors associated with suicide and mental health con-*
5 *ditions, and to help such professionals learn how best*
6 *to respond to such risks, with the goal of preventing*
7 *suicide, mental health conditions, and substance use*
8 *disorders; and*

9 (2) *to address stigma associated with seeking*
10 *mental health and substance use disorder services.*

11 (b) *REPORTING.*—*Not later than 2 years after the date*
12 *of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the*
13 *Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of*
14 *the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce*
15 *of the House of Representatives an update on the activities*
16 *and outcomes of the initiative under subsection (a), includ-*
17 *ing a description of quantitative and qualitative metrics*
18 *used to evaluate such activities and outcomes.*

19 (c) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*To carry*
20 *out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated*
21 *\$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024.*

1 **SEC. 4. PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AMONG**
2 **THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE.**

3 *Subpart I of part E of title VII of the Public Health*
4 *Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended by adding*
5 *at the end the following:*

6 **“SEC. 764. PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH**
7 **AMONG THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORK-**
8 **FORCE.**

9 *“(a) PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH*
10 *AMONG HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—*

11 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award*
12 *grants or contracts to health care entities, including*
13 *entities that provide health care services, such as hos-*
14 *pitals, community health centers, and rural health*
15 *clinics, or to medical professional associations, to es-*
16 *tablish or enhance evidence-based or evidence-in-*
17 *formed programs dedicated to improving mental*
18 *health and resiliency for health care professionals.*

19 *“(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiv-*
20 *ing a grant or contract under this subsection shall use*
21 *funds received through the grant or contract to imple-*
22 *ment a new program or enhance an existing program*
23 *to promote mental health among health care profes-*
24 *sionals, which may include—*

25 *“(A) improving awareness among health*
26 *care professionals about risk factors for, and*

1 *signs of, suicide and mental health or substance*
2 *use disorders, in accordance with evidence-based*
3 *or evidence-informed practices;*

4 “(B) *establishing new, or enhancing exist-*
5 *ing, evidence-based or evidence-informed pro-*
6 *grams for preventing suicide and improving*
7 *mental health and resiliency among health care*
8 *professionals;*

9 “(C) *establishing new, or enhancing exist-*
10 *ing, peer-support programs among health care*
11 *professionals; or*

12 “(D) *providing mental health care, follow-*
13 *up services and care, or referral for such services*
14 *and care, as appropriate.*

15 “(3) *PRIORITY.—In awarding grants and con-*
16 *tracts under this subsection, the Secretary shall give*
17 *priority to eligible entities in health professional*
18 *shortage areas or rural areas.*

19 “(b) *TRAINING GRANTS.—The Secretary may establish*
20 *a program to award grants to health professions schools,*
21 *academic health centers, State or local governments, Indian*
22 *Tribes or Tribal organizations, or other appropriate public*
23 *or private nonprofit entities (or consortia of entities, in-*
24 *cluding entities promoting multidisciplinary approaches)*
25 *to support the training of health care students, residents,*

1 *or health care professionals in evidence-based or evidence-*
2 *informed strategies to address mental and substance use dis-*
3 *orders and improve mental health and resiliency among*
4 *health care professionals.*

5 “(c) *GRANT TERMS.*—*A grant or contract awarded*
6 *under subsection (a) or (b) shall be for a period of 3 years.*

7 “(d) *APPLICATION SUBMISSION.*—*An entity seeking a*
8 *grant or contract under subsection (a) or (b) shall submit*
9 *an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-*
10 *ner, and accompanied by such information as the Secretary*
11 *may require.*

12 “(e) *REPORTING.*—*An entity awarded a grant or con-*
13 *tract under subsection (a) or (b) shall periodically submit*
14 *to the Secretary a report evaluating the activities supported*
15 *by the grant or contract.*

16 “(f) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.*—*To carry*
17 *out this section and section 5 of the Dr. Lorna Breen Health*
18 *Care Provider Protection Act, there are authorized to be ap-*
19 *propriated \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through*
20 *2024.”.*

21 **SEC. 5. REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH CARE PROFES-**
22 **SIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND RESILIENCY.**

23 (a) *IN GENERAL.*—*Not later than 3 years after the*
24 *date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation*
25 *with relevant stakeholders, shall—*

1 (1) *conduct a review on improving health care*
2 *professional mental health and the outcomes of pro-*
3 *grams authorized under this Act; and*

4 (2) *submit a report to the Congress on the results*
5 *of such review.*

6 (b) *CONSIDERATIONS.—The review under subsection*
7 *(a) shall take into account—*

8 (1) *the prevalence and severity of mental health*
9 *conditions among health professionals, and factors*
10 *that contribute to those mental health conditions;*

11 (2) *barriers to seeking and accessing mental*
12 *health care for health care professionals, which may*
13 *include consideration of stigma and licensing con-*
14 *cerns, and actions taken by State licensing boards,*
15 *schools for health professionals, health care profes-*
16 *sional training associations, hospital associations, or*
17 *other organizations, as appropriate, to address such*
18 *barriers;*

19 (3) *the impact of the COVID–19 public health*
20 *emergency on the mental health of health care profes-*
21 *sionals and lessons learned for future public health*
22 *emergencies;*

23 (4) *factors that promote mental health and resil-*
24 *ency among health care professionals, including pro-*

1 *grams or strategies to strengthen mental health and*
2 *resiliency among health care professionals; and*

3 *(5) the efficacy of health professional training*
4 *programs that promote resiliency and improve mental*
5 *health.*

6 *(c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The review under subsection*
7 *(a), as appropriate, shall identify best practices related to,*
8 *and make recommendations to address—*

9 *(1) improving mental health and resiliency*
10 *among health care professionals;*

11 *(2) removing barriers to mental health care for*
12 *health care professionals; and*

13 *(3) strategies to promote resiliency among health*
14 *care professionals in health care settings.*

15 **SEC. 6. GAO REPORT.**

16 *Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of*
17 *this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall*
18 *submit to the Congress a report on the extent to which Fed-*
19 *eral substance use disorder and mental health grant pro-*
20 *grams address the prevalence and severity of mental health*
21 *conditions and substance use disorders among health profes-*
22 *sionals. Such report shall—*

23 *(1) include an analysis of available evidence and*
24 *data related to such conditions and programs; and*

- 1 (2) *assess whether there are duplicative goals and*
- 2 *objectives among such grant programs.*