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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Ms. Wild (for herself, Mr. Keller, Mr. Fitzpatrick, Mr. Raskin, Ms. Stevens, Mr. Trone, Ms. Scanlon, Mr. Moulton, Mr. Grijalva, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Ms. Dean, Mr. Harder of California, and Mr. DeSaulnier) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

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

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act”.

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

Part L of title VIII of the Higher Education Act of
1965 (20 U.S.C. 1161l et seq.) is amended—

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

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

“SEC. 826. ENCOURAGING CAMPUS COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL
HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PLANS.

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

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

“(2) shall align with—

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

“(B) the 21st Century Cures Act (42
U.S.C. 201 note); and
“(C) the programs authorized under the Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act (42 U.S.C. 201 note; Public Law 108–355);

“(3) shall take into consideration existing State efforts to address mental health and suicide prevention at institutions of higher education; and

“(4) may be carried out in collaboration with nonprofit organizations and other experts and stakeholders in the field of campus mental health and suicide prevention.

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

“(1) not later than one year after the date of enactment of the Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act; and

“(2) three years after the date of enactment of such Act.

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