

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1877

To amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 16, 2015

Ms. JENKINS of Kansas (for herself and Ms. MATSUI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training 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 First  
5 Aid Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING GRANTS.**

7 Section 520J of the Public Health Service Act (42  
8 U.S.C. 290bb–41) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 520J. MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING GRANTS.**

2       “(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary, acting through the  
3 Administrator, shall award grants to States, political sub-  
4 divisions of States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and  
5 nonprofit private entities to initiate and sustain mental  
6 health first aid training programs.

7       “(b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

8               “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for funding  
9 under subsection (a), a mental health first aid train-  
10 ing program shall—

11                       “(A) be designed to train individuals in the  
12 categories listed in paragraph (2) to accomplish  
13 the objectives described in paragraph (3);

14                       “(B) ensure that training is conducted by  
15 trainers that are properly licensed and  
16 credentialed by nonprofit entities as designated  
17 by the Secretary; and

18                       “(C) include—

19                               “(i) at a minimum—

20                                       “(I) a core live training course  
21 for individuals in the categories listed  
22 in paragraph (2) on the skills, re-  
23 sources, and knowledge to assist indi-  
24 viduals in crisis to connect with ap-  
25 propriate local mental health care  
26 services;

1                   “(II) training on mental health  
2                   resources, including the location of  
3                   community mental health centers de-  
4                   scribed in section 1913(c), in the  
5                   State and local community; and

6                   “(III) training on action plans  
7                   and protocols for referral to such re-  
8                   sources; and

9                   “(ii) where feasible, continuing edu-  
10                  cation and updated training for individuals  
11                  in the categories listed in paragraph (2).

12                  “(2) CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS TO BE  
13                  TRAINED.—The categories of individuals listed in  
14                  this paragraph are the following:

15                  “(A) Emergency services personnel and  
16                  other first responders.

17                  “(B) Police officers and other law enforce-  
18                  ment personnel.

19                  “(C) Teachers and school administrators.

20                  “(D) Human resources professionals.

21                  “(E) Faith community leaders.

22                  “(F) Nurses and other primary care per-  
23                  sonnel.

1           “(G) Students enrolled in an elementary  
2 school, a secondary school, or an institution of  
3 higher education.

4           “(H) The parents of students described in  
5 subparagraph (G).

6           “(I) Veterans.

7           “(J) Other individuals, audiences or train-  
8 ing populations as determined appropriate by  
9 the Secretary.

10          “(3) OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING.—To be eligible  
11 for funding under subsection (a), a mental health  
12 first aid training program shall be designed to train  
13 individuals in the categories listed in paragraph (2)  
14 to accomplish each of the following objectives (as ap-  
15 propriate for the individuals to be trained, taking  
16 into consideration their age):

17           “(A) Safe de-escalation of crisis situations.

18           “(B) Recognition of the signs and symp-  
19 toms of mental illness, including such common  
20 psychiatric conditions as schizophrenia, bipolar  
21 disorder, major clinical depression, and anxiety  
22 disorders.

23           “(C) Timely referral to mental health serv-  
24 ices in the early stages of developing mental  
25 disorders in order to—

1                   “(i) avoid more costly subsequent be-  
2                   havioral health care; and

3                   “(ii) enhance the effectiveness of men-  
4                   tal health services.

5           “(c) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—In awarding  
6 grants under this section, the Secretary shall—

7                   “(1) ensure that grants are equitably distrib-  
8                   uted among the geographical regions of the United  
9                   States; and

10                   “(2) pay particular attention to the mental  
11                   health training needs of populations and target audi-  
12                   ences residing in rural areas.

13           “(d) APPLICATION.—A State, political subdivision of  
14 a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or nonprofit pri-  
15 vate entity that desires a grant under this section shall  
16 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in  
17 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
18 retary may require, including a plan for the rigorous eval-  
19 uation of activities that are carried out with funds received  
20 under such grant.

21           “(e) EVALUATION.—A State, political subdivision of  
22 a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or nonprofit pri-  
23 vate entity that receives a grant under this section shall  
24 prepare and submit an evaluation to the Secretary at such  
25 time, in such manner, and containing such information as

1 the Secretary may reasonably require, including an evalua-  
2 tion of activities carried out with funds received under  
3 such grant and a process and outcome evaluation.

4 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
5 carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-  
6 priated \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2016 and such sums  
7 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2017 and  
8 2018.”.

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