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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7159

To amend the Community Mental Health Service Block Grant to authorize a set-aside for crisis care services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. BUSTOS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Community Mental Health Service Block Grant to authorize a set-aside for crisis care services, 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.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Crisis Care Improve-
5 ment and Suicide Prevention Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Fragmentation of mental health services
2 and limited access to crisis services complicates and
3 elongates mental health patient stays in emergency
4 departments and under the custody of law enforce-
5 ment.

6 (2) Emergency departments and the criminal
7 justice system do not have the capacity with existing
8 resources and health care professional shortages to
9 address the needs of the rapidly growing number of
10 individuals with mental health conditions, increasing
11 the risk of adverse patient outcomes.

12 (3) In 2017, 150,000 individuals in the United
13 States died from alcohol and drug-induced fatalities
14 and suicides. Nearly $\frac{1}{3}$, or more than 47,000 were
15 suicides.

16 (4) From 2016 to 2018, more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of hos-
17 pital emergency department “frequent users” in Illi-
18 nois were patients with presenting or underlying
19 mental health conditions, underscoring the need for
20 additional funding, continued access to real-time
21 care and connection to long-term treatment options.

22 (5) 15 percent of men and 30 percent of women
23 in custody of county jails have severe mental ill-
24 nesses.

1 (6) Use of appropriate crisis facilities and inter-
2 ventions in Maricopa County, Arizona, have saved
3 emergency departments an estimated \$37,000,000 in
4 2016 and saved the equivalent of 37 police officer
5 full-time equivalent salaries.

6 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
7 gress that—

8 (1) for patients with mental health issues, co-
9 ordination of physical and mental health services
10 and cooperation with law enforcement are essential
11 to ensure timely, appropriate care; and

12 (2) crisis care networks established at State
13 and local levels have saved resources and shown im-
14 proved outcomes for patients in crisis.

15 **SEC. 3. EVIDENCE-BASED CRISIS CARE PROGRAMS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1912(b)(1) of the Public
17 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x-1(b)(1))—

18 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

19 (A) by redesignating clauses (vi) and (vii)
20 as clauses (vii) and (viii), respectively; and

21 (B) by inserting after clause (v), the fol-
22 lowing:

23 “(vi) include a description of how the
24 State supports evidenced-based programs
25 that address the crisis care needs of indi-

1 viduals with serious mental disorders, and
2 children with serious mental and emotional
3 disturbances, that include at least one of
4 the core components specified in subpara-
5 graph (F); ”; and

6 (2) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(F) CORE COMPONENTS FOR CRISIS CARE
8 SERVICES.—The core components of a program
9 referred to in subparagraph (A)(vi) include the
10 following:

11 “(i) Crisis call centers.

12 “(ii) 24/7 mobile crisis services.

13 “(iii) Crisis stabilization programs of-
14 fering acute care or sub-acute care in a
15 hospital or appropriately licensed facility,
16 with referrals to inpatient or outpatient
17 care, as determined by the Assistant Sec-
18 retary for Mental Health and Substance
19 Use.”.

20 (b) SET-ASIDE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED CRISIS CARE
21 SERVICES.—Section 1920 of the Public Health Service
22 Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–9) is amended by adding at the end
23 the following:

24 “(d) CRISIS CARE.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
2 graph (3), a State shall expend at least 5 percent of
3 the allotment of the State pursuant to a funding
4 agreement under section 1911 for each fiscal year to
5 support programs described in section
6 1912(b)(1)(A)(vi).

7 “(2) STATE FLEXIBILITY.—In lieu of expending
8 5 percent of the State’s allotment for a fiscal year
9 as required by paragraph (1), a State may elect to
10 expend not less than 10 percent of such amount by
11 the end of two consecutive fiscal years.

12 “(3) FUNDING CONTINGENCY.—Paragraph (1)
13 shall not apply with respect to a fiscal year unless
14 the amount made available to carry out this section
15 for that fiscal year exceeds the amount appropriated
16 to carry out this section for fiscal year 2020 by at
17 least \$35,000,000.”.