

Union Calendar No. 444

116TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION**H. R. 2519****[Report No. 116–544]**

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants to implement innovative approaches to securing prompt access to appropriate follow-on care for individuals who experience an acute mental health episode and present for care in an emergency department, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 3, 2019

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Additional sponsors: Miss RICE of New York and Mr. TRONE

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

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 *italic*]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 3, 2019]

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the Center for Mental Health Services of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, to award grants to implement innovative approaches to securing prompt access to appropriate follow-on care for individuals who experience an acute mental health episode and present for care in an emergency department, 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 “Improving Mental*
 5 *Health Access from the Emergency Department Act of*
 6 *2020”.*

7 **SEC. 2. SECURING APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-ON CARE FOR**
 8 **ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS AFTER AN**
 9 **EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ENCOUNTER.**

10 *The Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting*
 11 *after section 520J of such Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31) the fol-*
 12 *lowing new section:*

13 **“SEC. 520J–1. SECURING APPROPRIATE FOLLOW-ON CARE**
 14 **FOR ACUTE MENTAL HEALTH ILLNESS AFTER**
 15 **AN EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT ENCOUNTER.**

16 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants*
 17 *on a competitive basis to qualifying health providers to im-*
 18 *plement innovative approaches to securing prompt access*
 19 *to appropriate follow-on care for individuals who experi-*
 20 *ence an acute mental health episode and present for care*
 21 *in an emergency department.*

22 *“(b) ELIGIBLE GRANT RECIPIENTS.—In this section,*
 23 *the term ‘qualifying health provider’ means a health care*
 24 *facility licensed under applicable law that—*

25 *“(1) has an emergency department;*

1 “(2) is staffed by medical personnel (such as
2 emergency physicians, psychiatrists, psychiatric reg-
3 istered nurses, mental health technicians, clinical so-
4 cial workers, psychologists, and therapists) capable of
5 providing treatment focused on stabilizing acute men-
6 tal health conditions and assisting patients to access
7 resources to continue treatment in the least restrictive
8 appropriate setting; and

9 “(3) has arrangements in place with other pro-
10 viders of care that can provide a full range of medi-
11 cally appropriate, evidence-based services for the
12 treatment of acute mental health episodes.

13 “(c) *USE OF FUNDS.*—A qualifying health provider re-
14 ceiving funds under this section shall use such funds to cre-
15 ate, support, or expand programs or projects intended to
16 assist individuals who are treated at the provider’s emer-
17 gency department for acute mental health episodes and to
18 expeditiously transition such individuals to an appropriate
19 facility or setting for follow-on care. Such use of funds may
20 support the following:

21 “(1) *Expediting placement in appropriate facili-*
22 *ties through activities such as expanded coordination*
23 *with regional service providers, assessment, peer navi-*
24 *gators, bed availability tracking and management,*

1 *transfer protocol development, networking infrastruc-*
2 *ture development, and transportation services.*

3 *“(2) Increasing the supply of inpatient psy-*
4 *chiatric beds and alternative care settings such as re-*
5 *gional emergency psychiatric facilities.*

6 *“(3) Use of alternative approaches to providing*
7 *psychiatric care in the emergency department setting,*
8 *including through tele-psychiatric support and other*
9 *remote psychiatric consultation, implementation of*
10 *peak period crisis clinics, or creation of psychiatric*
11 *emergency service units.*

12 *“(4) Use of approaches that include proactive*
13 *followup such as telephone check-ins, telemedicine, or*
14 *other technology-based outreach to individuals during*
15 *the period of transition.*

16 *“(5) Such other activities as are determined by*
17 *the Secretary to be appropriate, consistent with sub-*
18 *section (a).*

19 *“(d) APPLICATION.—A qualifying health provider de-*
20 *siring a grant under this section shall prepare and submit*
21 *an application to the Secretary at such time and in such*
22 *manner as the Secretary may require. At a minimum, the*
23 *application shall include the following:*

24 *“(1) A description of identified need for acute*
25 *mental health services in the provider’s service area.*

1 “(2) *A description of the existing efforts of the*
2 *provider to meet the need for acute mental health*
3 *services in the service area, and identified gaps in the*
4 *provision of such services.*

5 “(3) *A description of the proposed use of funds*
6 *to meet the need and gaps identified pursuant to*
7 *paragraph (2).*

8 “(4) *A description of how the provider will co-*
9 *ordinate efforts with Federal, State, local, and private*
10 *entities within the service area.*

11 “(5) *A description of program objectives, how the*
12 *objectives are proposed to be met, and how the pro-*
13 *vider will evaluate outcomes relative to objectives.*

14 “(e) *AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry*
15 *out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated*
16 *\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.*

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