

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 588

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, community-based entities, and primary care and behavioral health organizations to address behavioral health needs caused by the public health emergency declared with respect to COVID–19.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2021

Ms. PORTER (for herself, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. TRONE, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. RYAN, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. BASS, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MCKINLEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. CÁRDENAS, and Mr. CROW) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States, political subdivisions of States, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, community-based entities, and primary care and behavioral health organizations to address behavioral health needs caused by the public health emergency declared with respect to COVID–19.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2       *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Stopping the Mental  
3 Health Pandemic Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO SUPPORT INCREASED BEHAVIORAL**  
5 **HEALTH NEEDS DUE TO COVID-19.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, acting through the  
7 Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and Substance Use,  
8 shall award grants to States, political subdivisions of  
9 States, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, commu-  
10 nity-based entities, and primary care and behavioral  
11 health organizations to address behavioral health needs  
12 caused by the public health emergency declared pursuant  
13 to section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
14 247d) with respect to COVID-19.

15 (b) **USE OF FUNDS.**—An entity that receives a grant  
16 under subsection (a) may use funds received through such  
17 grant to—

18 (1) increase behavioral health treatment and  
19 prevention capacity, including to—

20 (A) promote coordination among local enti-  
21 ties;

22 (B) train the behavioral health workforce,  
23 relevant stakeholders, and community members;

24 (C) upgrade technology to support effective  
25 delivery of health care services through tele-  
26 health modalities;

1 (D) purchase medical supplies and equip-  
2 ment for behavioral health treatment entities  
3 and providers;

4 (E) address surge capacity for behavioral  
5 health needs such as through mobile units; and

6 (F) promote collaboration between primary  
7 care and mental health providers; and

8 (2) support or enhance behavioral health serv-  
9 ices, including—

10 (A) emergency crisis intervention, includ-  
11 ing mobile crisis units, 24/7 crisis call centers,  
12 and medically staffed crisis stabilization pro-  
13 grams;

14 (B) screening, assessment, diagnosis, and  
15 treatment;

16 (C) mental health awareness trainings;

17 (D) evidence-based suicide prevention;

18 (E) evidence-based integrated care models;

19 (F) community recovery and peer supports;

20 (G) outreach to underserved and minority  
21 communities; and

22 (H) for front line health care workers.

23 (c) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority to  
24 applicants proposing to serve areas with a high number  
25 of COVID–19 cases.

1           (d) EVALUATION.—An entity that receives a grant  
2 under this section shall prepare and submit an evaluation  
3 to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and con-  
4 taining such information as the Secretary may reasonably  
5 require, including—

6           (1) an evaluation of activities carried out with  
7 funds received through the grant; and

8           (2) a process and outcome evaluation.

9           (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
10 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
11 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 and 2022, to  
12 remain available until expended.

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