

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6523

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to a local educational agency or private elementary or secondary school, partnered with a public or nonprofit private health care entity, to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in elementary schools and secondary schools.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 28, 2022

Mr. LAWSON of Florida (for himself, Mr. POSEY, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COSTA, Ms. DEAN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. CÁRDENAS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to a local educational agency or private elementary or secondary school, partnered with a public or nonprofit private health care entity, to develop and implement a comprehensive program to promote student access to defibrillation in elementary schools and secondary schools.

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 “Access to AEDs Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSE.**

4 The Congress makes the following findings:

5 (1) Heart disease is the leading cause of death
6 in the United States.

7 (2) Sudden cardiac arrest (SCA) is a life-
8 threatening emergency that is caused by a malfunc-
9 tion in the heart’s electrical system or structure,
10 which is caused by an abnormality from birth or one
11 that develops over time.

12 (3) Studies show that 1 in 300 youth has an
13 undetected heart condition that puts them at risk.

14 (4) SCA is the leading cause of death for stu-
15 dent athletes.

16 (5) Sports-related SCA accounted for 39 per-
17 cent of SCAs among children 18 years old or young-
18 er.

19 (6) In 2018, there were nearly 394,000 sudden
20 cardiac arrests that occurred in the United States,
21 with 9 out of 10 being fatal. Only 1 in 10 victims
22 survive a sudden cardiac arrest.

23 (7) An estimated 7,000 to 23,000 young people
24 are stricken by SCA annually.

1 (8) The American Heart Association estimates
2 that 5 in 10 victims of SCA could survive if bystand-
3 ers gave CPR and used an AED immediately.

4 (9) The chain of survival includes prompt noti-
5 fication of emergency services and early CPR,
6 defibrillation, and advanced cardiac life support.

7 (10) Health education should include basic
8 emergency lifesaving skills. Incorporating these life-
9 saving training programs into the health curriculum
10 of elementary and secondary schools will give school
11 children these skills.

12 **SEC. 3. PROMOTING STUDENT ACCESS TO**
13 **DEFIBRILLATION.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
15 Human Services shall award grants to local educational
16 agencies and private elementary and secondary schools, in
17 partnership with a public or nonprofit private health care
18 entity, to develop and implement a comprehensive pro-
19 gram to promote student access to defibrillation in elemen-
20 tary schools and secondary schools by—

21 (1) developing and providing comprehensive ma-
22 terials to establish AED and CPR programs in such
23 schools;

1 (2) providing support for CPR and AED train-
2 ing programs in such schools for students, staff, and
3 related sports volunteers;

4 (3) providing support for developing a cardiac
5 emergency action plan within such schools;

6 (4) purchasing AEDs that have been approved,
7 or cleared for marketing, by the Food and Drug Ad-
8 ministration;

9 (5) purchasing necessary AED batteries and
10 performing necessary AED maintenance according
11 to AED manufacturers;

12 (6) replacing old and outdated AED and CPR
13 equipment, machinery, and educational materials;

14 (7) fostering new and existing community part-
15 nerships with and among local educational agencies,
16 private schools, nonprofit organizations, public
17 health organizations, emergency medical service pro-
18 viders, fire and police departments, and parent-
19 teacher associations to promote the importance of
20 defibrillation in elementary and secondary schools;

21 (8) aiding school athletic departments seeking
22 to develop programs to screen student athletes for
23 risk of sudden cardiac arrest; and

24 (9) further developing strategies to improve ac-
25 cess to AEDs in elementary and secondary schools.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible for a grant under
2 subsection (a), a local educational agency or a private ele-
3 mentary or secondary school shall submit an application
4 to the Secretary—

5 (1) at such time, in such manner, and con-
6 taining such information as the Secretary may rea-
7 sonably require; and

8 (2) in partnership with a public or private non-
9 profit health care entity that—

10 (A) demonstrates an ability to develop,
11 train, and implement a comprehensive program
12 to promote student access to defibrillation in el-
13 ementary and secondary schools; and

14 (B) is qualified in providing technical as-
15 sistance in AED and CPR training.

16 (c) CLEARINGHOUSE.—Not later than 1 year after
17 the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall es-
18 tablish a clearinghouse database—

19 (1) to collect and make available information,
20 including through voluntary reporting by local edu-
21 cational agencies, schools, and manufacturers, relat-
22 ing to student access to defibrillation in elementary
23 schools and secondary schools, including with respect
24 to the costs of providing AEDs and CPR training;
25 and

1 (2) to gather information in a central location
2 to facilitate research regarding sudden cardiac arrest
3 in the pediatric population.

4 (d) REPORTS.—

5 (1) BY GRANTEE.—Not later than 4 years after
6 receipt of a grant under this section, the recipient of
7 the grant shall submit to the Secretary a report that
8 describes the activities carried out with funds re-
9 ceived through the grant.

10 (2) BY SECRETARY.—Not later than one year
11 after receiving the reports required by paragraph
12 (1), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate
13 congressional committees a consolidated evaluation
14 of the activities carried out pursuant to grants under
15 this section.

16 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) The term “AED” means an automated ex-
18 ternal defibrillator.

19 (2) The term “CPR” means cardiopulmonary
20 resuscitation.

21 (3) The terms “elementary school”, “local edu-
22 cational agency”, and “secondary school” have the
23 meanings given to such terms in section 8101 of the
24 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
25 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

1 (4) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
2 of Health and Human Services.

3 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
4 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
5 \$1,800,000 for the period of fiscal years 2023 through
6 2027.

