

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 610

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## AN ACT

To address behavioral health and well-being among health  
care professionals.

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 “Dr. Lorna Breen  
3 Health Care Provider Protection Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DISSEMINATION OF BEST PRACTICES.**

5 The Secretary of Health and Human Services (re-  
6 ferred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall identify and  
7 disseminate evidence-based or evidence-informed best  
8 practices for preventing suicide and improving mental  
9 health and resiliency among health care professionals, and  
10 for training health care professionals in appropriate strat-  
11 egies to promote their mental health. Such best practices  
12 shall include recommendations related to preventing sui-  
13 cide and improving mental health and resiliency among  
14 health care professionals.

15 **SEC. 3. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE ENCOUR-**  
16 **AGING USE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUB-**  
17 **STANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES BY**  
18 **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
20 with relevant stakeholders, including medical professional  
21 associations, shall establish a national evidence-based or  
22 evidence-informed education and awareness initiative to  
23 encourage health care professionals to seek support and  
24 care for their mental health or substance use concerns,  
25 to help such professionals identify risk factors associated  
26 with suicide and mental health conditions, and to help

1 such professionals learn how best to respond to such risks,  
2 with the goal of preventing suicide, mental health condi-  
3 tions, and substance use disorders, and to address stigma  
4 associated with seeking mental health and substance use  
5 disorder services.

6 (b) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the  
7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide  
8 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-  
9 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and  
10 Commerce of the House of Representatives an update on  
11 the activities and outcomes of the initiative under sub-  
12 section (a), including a description of quantitative and  
13 qualitative metrics used to evaluate such activities and  
14 outcomes.

15 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
16 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated  
17 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024.

18 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AMONG**  
19 **THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE.**

20 Subpart I of part E of title VII of the Public Health  
21 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended by add-  
22 ing at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 764. GRANTS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AMONG**  
2 **THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
4 grants related to improving mental health and resiliency  
5 among health care professionals.

6 “(b) GRANTS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH  
7 AMONG HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
9 grants to health care entities, including entities that  
10 provide health care services, such as hospitals, com-  
11 munity health centers, and rural health clinics, or to  
12 medical professional associations, to establish or en-  
13 hance evidence-based or evidence-informed programs  
14 dedicated to improving mental health and resiliency  
15 for health care professionals.

16 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiv-  
17 ing a grant under this subsection shall use amounts  
18 under the grant to implement a new program or en-  
19 hance an existing program to promote mental health  
20 among health care professionals, which may in-  
21 clude—

22 “(A) improving awareness among health  
23 care professionals about risk factors for, and  
24 signs of, suicide and mental health or substance  
25 use disorders, in accordance with evidence-  
26 based or evidence-informed practices;

1           “(B) establishing new, or enhancing exist-  
2           ing, evidence-based or evidence-informed pro-  
3           grams for preventing suicide and improving  
4           mental health and resiliency among health care  
5           professionals;

6           “(C) establishing new, or enhancing exist-  
7           ing, peer-support programs among health care  
8           professionals; or

9           “(D) providing mental health care, follow-  
10          up services and care, or referral for such serv-  
11          ices and care, as appropriate.

12          “(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this  
13          subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-  
14          ble entities in health professional shortage areas or  
15          rural areas.

16          “(c) TRAINING GRANTS.—The Secretary may estab-  
17          lish a program to award grants to health professions  
18          schools, academic health centers, State or local govern-  
19          ments, Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, or other ap-  
20          propriate public or private nonprofit entities (or consortia  
21          of entities, including entities promoting multidisciplinary  
22          approaches) to support the training of health care stu-  
23          dents, residents, or health care professionals in evidence-  
24          based or evidence-informed strategies to address mental

1 and substance use disorders and improve mental health  
2 and resiliency among health care professionals.

3 “(d) GRANT TERMS.—A grant awarded under sub-  
4 section (b) or (c) shall be for a period of 3 years.

5 “(e) APPLICATION SUBMISSION.—An entity seeking  
6 a grant under subsection (b) or (c) shall submit an appli-  
7 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and  
8 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may  
9 require.

10 “(f) REPORTING.—An entity awarded a grant under  
11 subsection (b) or (c) shall periodically submit to the Sec-  
12 retary a report evaluating the activities supported by the  
13 grant.

14 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
15 carry out this section and section 5 of the Dr. Lorna  
16 Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, there are au-  
17 thorized to be appropriated \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal  
18 years 2022 through 2024.”.

19 **SEC. 5. REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH CARE PROFES-**  
20 **SIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND RESILIENCY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
22 with relevant stakeholders, shall conduct a review and, not  
23 later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act,  
24 submit a report to Congress related to improving health

1 care professional mental health and resiliency and the out-  
2 comes of programs authorized under this Act.

3 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—The review under subsection  
4 (a) shall take into account—

5 (1) the prevalence and severity of mental health  
6 conditions among health professionals, and factors  
7 that contribute to those mental health conditions;

8 (2) barriers to seeking and accessing mental  
9 health care for health care professionals, which may  
10 include consideration of stigma and licensing con-  
11 cerns, and actions taken by State licensing boards,  
12 schools for health professionals, health care profes-  
13 sional training associations, hospital associations, or  
14 other organizations, as appropriate, to address such  
15 barriers;

16 (3) the impact of the COVID–19 public health  
17 emergency on the mental health of health care pro-  
18 fessionals and lessons learned for future public  
19 health emergencies;

20 (4) factors that promote mental health and re-  
21 siliency among health care professionals, including  
22 programs or strategies to strengthen mental health  
23 and resiliency among health care professionals; and

1           (5) the efficacy of health professional training  
2           programs that promote resiliency and improve men-  
3           tal health.

4           (c) **RECOMMENDATIONS.**—The review under sub-  
5           section (a), as appropriate, shall identify best practices re-  
6           lated to, and make recommendations to address—

7           (1) improving mental health and resiliency  
8           among health care professionals;

9           (2) removing barriers to mental health care for  
10          health care professionals; and

11          (3) strategies to promote resiliency among  
12          health care professionals in health care settings.

13 **SEC. 6. GAO REPORT.**

14          Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment  
15          of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
16          shall report to Congress on the extent to which Federal  
17          substance use disorder and mental health grant programs  
18          address the prevalence and severity of mental health con-  
19          ditions and substance use disorders among health profes-  
20          sionals. Such report shall include an analysis of available  
21          evidence and data related to such conditions and pro-

- 1 grams, and shall assess whether there are duplicative goals
- 2 and objectives among such grant programs.

Passed the Senate August 6 (legislative day, August 5), 2021.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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