

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2305

To provide funding to the Bureau of Prisons, States, and localities to carry out mental health screenings and provide referrals to mental health care providers for certain corrections officers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2025

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS (for herself and Mr. BACON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To provide funding to the Bureau of Prisons, States, and localities to carry out mental health screenings and provide referrals to mental health care providers for certain corrections officers.

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 “Corrections Officer
5 Blake Schwarz Suicide Prevention Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM.**

7 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
8 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-

1 eral is authorized establish a grant program to make
2 grants to States and units of local government to imple-
3 ment and administer mental health screenings to correc-
4 tions officers at eligible detention centers and refer such
5 individuals to mental health care providers, as applicable.

6 (b) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity seeking a grant
7 under this section shall submit to the Attorney General
8 an application at such time, in such manner, and con-
9 taining such information as the Attorney General may rea-
10 sonably require, including—

11 (1) a description of and a plan for the project
12 under subsection (d) that the entity will carry out;
13 and

14 (2) an assurance that the entity will hire a
15 mental health liaison staff member to coordinate
16 among eligible detention centers, mental health pro-
17 viders, the Advisory Board, and the outreach team.

18 (c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—A grant under this section
19 may only be used for the following:

20 (1) To develop and administer a brief mental
21 health screening survey as required under subsection
22 (d).

23 (2) To develop any technology necessary for an
24 eligible detention center to provide the survey under
25 paragraph (1).

1 (3) To hire any staff necessary for an eligible
2 detention center to provide the survey under para-
3 graph (1).

4 (4) To establish an outreach team pursuant to
5 subsection (e) to refer a correctional officer, if their
6 responses to the survey indicate severe mental ill-
7 ness, to a local mental health care provider for fur-
8 ther assessment and outreach, admission (when nec-
9 essary), and support for that officer in re-estab-
10 lishing ties with a mental health provider.

11 (5) To pay the salary or overtime pay of an
12 outreach team as established pursuant to subsection
13 (e), including providing direct funding to an eligible
14 detention center to compensate staff members.

15 (d) BRIEF MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING SURVEY.—
16 A mental health screening survey developed and adminis-
17 tered pursuant to a grant under this section shall—

18 (1) be composed of 5 to 10 questions;

19 (2) be based on the questions and content of
20 the Employee Assistance Program standard mental
21 health screening or the Bureau of Prisons initial
22 mental health screening standard;

23 (3) seek to identify severe mental illnesses, in-
24 cluding schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and major
25 depression;

1 (4) ask individuals about the symptoms of se-
2 vere mental illness they may be experiencing or have
3 experienced and any prior use of mental health-re-
4 lated medications or inpatient care;

5 (5) identify the individual's place of residence;

6 (6) be administered by a trained staff member
7 at the eligible detention center to all corrections offi-
8 cers; and

9 (7) be anonymous and confidential.

10 (e) OUTREACH TEAM.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—A referral to a mental health
12 care provider made pursuant to subsection (d) shall
13 be made by a mental health outreach team that is
14 composed of—

15 (A) mental health care professionals and
16 clinicians from mental health care centers local
17 to the eligible detention center;

18 (B) staff from the eligible detention center,
19 when applicable; and

20 (C) a mental health liaison staff member
21 who shall oversee the outreach team.

22 (2) ALERT.—If an individual has been deter-
23 mined to need a referral to a mental health care pro-
24 vider, the mental health outreach team shall be noti-

1 fied immediately by eligible detention center staff
2 and informed, when applicable.

3 **SEC. 3. BUREAU OF PRISONS.**

4 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
5 of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

6 (1) establish a program to develop and admin-
7 ister mental health surveys (as described in sub-
8 section (d) of section 2) to corrections officers of the
9 Bureau of Prisons, and establish and maintain an
10 outreach team (as described in subsection (e) of sec-
11 tion 2) to refer such corrections officer to mental
12 health care providers, as appropriate; and

13 (2) submit to the Advisory Board a plan for the
14 implementation of the program described in para-
15 graph (1).

16 **SEC. 4. ADVISORY BOARD ON PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.**

17 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
18 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-
19 eral shall establish an Advisory Board to manage and ad-
20 minister the grant program under section 2, with the re-
21 sponsibility for the following:

22 (1) Evaluating and approving the plans sub-
23 mitted by a State or locality as required under sec-
24 tion 2 and ensuring that grant funding is used as
25 specified under section 2.

1 (2) Monitoring plans submitted by the Bureau
2 of Prisons and advise the Attorney General on com-
3 pliance to ensure that funding to the Bureau of
4 Prisons is used as specified under section 3.

5 (3) Providing technical assistance to a State or
6 locality to help with the implementation and admin-
7 istration of mental health screening and referral pro-
8 grams.

9 (4) Creating a working group of mental health
10 care providers, jail and prison administrators, law
11 enforcement officials, and operators of existing men-
12 tal health screening and referral programs to share
13 best practices on how to create and implement men-
14 tal health screening and referral programs that have
15 the largest impact on reducing crime rates and im-
16 proving employment and wage rates for individuals
17 released from prison or jail.

18 (5) Working in coordination with mental health
19 outreach teams as established under section 2, to en-
20 sure that the grant program under such section is
21 operating as required.

22 (6) Determining if a grant awarded by the Pro-
23 gram is not meeting the requirements of the Pro-
24 gram and mandate necessary changes and reducing
25 funding if such changes are not made.

1 (7) Developing a self-reporting process for men-
2 tal health assistance that protects the anonymity
3 and privacy of the officer and identifies and neutral-
4 izes any impediment to self-reporting, including loss
5 of job and benefits.

6 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Advisory Board
7 shall provide technical assistance to the Bureau of Pris-
8 ons, States, and localities in setting up and administering
9 the Program and shall identify evidence-backed models for
10 the administration of mental health screening and referral
11 programs that the Bureau of Prisons, States, and local-
12 ities can look to when designing their own programs.

13 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
15 appoint members to serve on the Advisory Board es-
16 tablished under subsection (a) who have expertise
17 in—

18 (A) designing and administering mental
19 health screenings and providing referrals for
20 corrections officers;

21 (B) mental health care within prisons or
22 jails; or

23 (C) program evaluation using rigorous ex-
24 perimental and quasi-experimental statistical
25 methods.

1 (2) NUMBER OF MEMBERS.—The Attorney
2 General shall appoint as many members to the Advi-
3 sory Board established under subsection (a) as the
4 Attorney General determines appropriate.

5 **SEC. 5. FUNDING.**

6 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be ap-
7 propriated to the Attorney General to carry out this Act—

8 (1) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

9 (2) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

10 (3) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

11 (4) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

12 (5) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.

13 (b) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts
14 made available under subsection (a), the Attorney General
15 shall use—

16 (1) 90 percent of such amount for a grant pro-
17 gram under section 2 and the purposes described
18 under section 3, as applicable, of which—

19 (A) 20 percent shall be for the Bureau of
20 Prisons to carry out the requirements under
21 section 3;

22 (B) 20 percent shall be for grants to
23 States under section 2; and

24 (C) 50 percent shall be for grants to units
25 of local government under section 2;

1 (2) 5 percent of such amount for the Advisory
2 Board to carry out evaluation activities under sec-
3 tion 4(a); and

4 (3) 5 percent of such amount for the Advisory
5 Board to carry out the activities under section 4(b).

6 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) STATE.—The term “State” means any
9 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
10 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
11 lands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-
12 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

13 (2) LOCALITY.—The term “locality” means any
14 city, county, township, town, borough, parish, vil-
15 lage, or other general purpose political subdivision of
16 a State.

17 (3) MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The
18 term “mental health care provider” means a fully-
19 licensed professional or group of professionals who
20 diagnose mental health conditions and provide men-
21 tal health treatment, and who operate near to the
22 relevant jail or prison. Mental health care providers
23 may provide services at hospitals or at private clin-
24 ics.

1 (4) MENTAL HEALTH CARE CENTER.—The
2 term “mental health care center” means any facility
3 where one or more mental health care providers
4 offer mental health services, such as a hospital or
5 private clinic.

6 (5) JAIL OR PRISON ADMINISTRATOR.—The
7 term “jail or prison administrator” means any indi-
8 vidual who has been appointed to a supervisory posi-
9 tion in a Federal, State, or local incarceration facil-
10 ity by the Federal Government, a State, or a local-
11 ity.

12 (6) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIAL.—The term
13 “law enforcement official” means any officer of an
14 entity administered by a locality, State, or the Fed-
15 eral Government that exists primarily to prevent and
16 detect crime and enforce criminal laws.

17 (7) CORRECTIONS OFFICERS.—The term “cor-
18 rections officer” means any officer or employee of
19 any prison, jail, or other detention facility, operated
20 by, or under contract to, a Federal governmental
21 agency, whose job responsibilities include providing
22 for the custody of incarcerated individuals.

23 (8) ELIGIBLE DETENTION CENTER.—The term
24 “eligible detention center” means any prison or jail

1 administered by the Bureau of Prisons or a State or
2 any jail administered by a State or locality.

3 (9) SEVERE MENTAL ILLNESS.—The term “se-
4 vere mental illness” means one or more mental, be-
5 havioral, or emotional disorders that results in seri-
6 ous functional impairment and substantially inter-
7 feres with or limits major life activities.

○