

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5557

To amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 23, 2025

Ms. SALINAS (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CAREY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CRAIG, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAPPAS, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RYAN, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. SCANLON, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SORENSEN, and Ms. UNDERWOOD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

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 “Mental Health Services
5 for Students Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE**
2 **ACT.**

3 (a) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The second part G
4 (relating to services provided through religious organiza-
5 tions) of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42
6 U.S.C. 290kk et seq.) is amended—

7 (1) by redesignating such part as part J; and

8 (2) by redesignating sections 581 through 584
9 as sections 596 through 596C, respectively.

10 (b) SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH AND CHIL-
11 DREN.—Section 581 of the Public Health Service Act (42
12 U.S.C. 290hh) (relating to children and violence) is
13 amended to read as follows:

14 **“SEC. 581. SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH; CHILDREN**
15 **AND ADOLESCENTS.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
17 with the Secretary of Education, shall, through grants,
18 contracts, or cooperative agreements awarded to eligible
19 entities described in subsection (c), provide comprehensive
20 school-based mental health services and supports to assist
21 children in local communities and schools (including
22 schools funded by the Bureau of Indian Education) deal-
23 ing with traumatic experiences, grief, bereavement, risk of
24 suicide, and violence. Such services and supports shall
25 be—

1 “(1) developmentally, linguistically, and cul-
2 turally appropriate;

3 “(2) trauma-informed; and

4 “(3) incorporate positive behavioral interven-
5 tions and supports.

6 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—Grants, contracts, or cooperative
7 agreements awarded under subsection (a), shall, as appro-
8 priate, be used for—

9 “(1) implementation of school- and community-
10 based mental health programs that—

11 “(A) build awareness of individual trauma
12 and the intergenerational continuum of impacts
13 of trauma on populations;

14 “(B) train appropriate staff to identify,
15 and screen for, signs of trauma exposure, men-
16 tal health disorders, or risk of suicide; and

17 “(C) incorporate positive behavioral inter-
18 ventions, family engagement, student treatment,
19 and multigenerational supports to foster the
20 health and development of children, prevent
21 mental health disorders, and ameliorate the im-
22 pact of trauma;

23 “(2) technical assistance to local communities
24 with respect to the development of programs de-
25 scribed in paragraph (1);

1 “(3) facilitating community partnerships among
2 families, students, law enforcement agencies, edu-
3 cation agencies, mental health and substance use
4 disorder service systems, family-based mental health
5 service systems, child welfare agencies, health care
6 providers (including primary care physicians, mental
7 health professionals, and other professionals who
8 specialize in children’s mental health such as child
9 and adolescent psychiatrists), institutions of higher
10 education, faith-based programs, trauma networks,
11 and other community-based systems to address child
12 and adolescent trauma, mental health issues, and vi-
13 olence; and

14 “(4) establishing mechanisms for children and
15 adolescents to report incidents of violence or plans
16 by other children, adolescents, or adults to commit
17 violence.

18 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant,
20 contract, or cooperative agreement under subsection
21 (a), an entity shall be a partnership that includes—

22 “(A) a State educational agency, as de-
23 fined in section 8101 of the Elementary and
24 Secondary Education Act of 1965, in coordina-
25 tion with one or more local educational agen-

1 cies, as defined in section 8101 of the Elemen-
2 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, or
3 a consortium of any entities described in sub-
4 paragraph (B), (C), (D), or (E) of section
5 8101(30) of such Act; and

6 “(B) at least 1 community-based mental
7 health provider, including a public or private
8 mental health entity, health care entity, family-
9 based mental health entity, trauma network, or
10 other community-based entity, as determined by
11 the Secretary (and which may include addi-
12 tional entities such as a human services agency,
13 law enforcement or juvenile justice entity, child
14 welfare agency, agency, an institution of higher
15 education, or another entity, as determined by
16 the Secretary).

17 “(2) COMPLIANCE WITH HIPAA.—Any patient
18 records developed by covered entities through activi-
19 ties under a grant, contract, or cooperative agree-
20 ment under this section shall meet the regulations
21 promulgated under section 264(c) of the Health In-
22 surance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996.

23 “(3) COMPLIANCE WITH FERPA.—Section 444
24 of the General Education Provisions Act (commonly
25 known as the ‘Family Educational Rights and Pri-

1 vacy Act of 1974') shall apply to any entity that is
2 a member of a partnership entered into pursuant to
3 paragraph (1) in the same manner that such section
4 applies to an educational agency or institution (as
5 that term is defined in such section).

6 “(d) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary
7 shall ensure that grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-
8 ments under subsection (a) will be distributed equitably
9 among the regions of the country and among urban and
10 rural areas.

11 “(e) DURATION OF AWARDS.—With respect to a
12 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under sub-
13 section (a), the period during which payments under such
14 an award will be made to the recipient shall be 5 years,
15 with options for renewal.

16 “(f) EVALUATION AND MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—

17 “(1) DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS.—The Assist-
18 ant Secretary shall develop a fiscally appropriate
19 process for evaluating activities carried out under
20 this section. Such process shall include—

21 “(A) the development of guidelines for the
22 submission of program data by grant, contract,
23 or cooperative agreement recipients;

24 “(B) the development of measures of out-
25 comes (in accordance with paragraph (2)) to be

1 applied by such recipients in evaluating pro-
2 grams carried out under this section; and

3 “(C) the submission of annual reports by
4 such recipients concerning the effectiveness of
5 programs carried out under this section.

6 “(2) MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—The Assistant
7 Secretary shall develop measures of outcomes to be
8 applied by recipients of assistance under this section
9 to evaluate the effectiveness of programs carried out
10 under this section, including outcomes related to the
11 student, family, and local educational systems sup-
12 ported by this Act.

13 “(3) SUBMISSION OF ANNUAL DATA.—An eligi-
14 ble entity described in subsection (c) that receives a
15 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this
16 section shall annually submit to the Assistant Sec-
17 retary a report that includes data to evaluate the
18 success of the program carried out by the entity
19 based on whether such program is achieving the pur-
20 poses of the program. Such reports shall utilize the
21 measures of outcomes under paragraph (2) in a rea-
22 sonable manner to demonstrate the progress of the
23 program in achieving such purposes.

24 “(4) EVALUATION BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—
25 Based on the data submitted under paragraph (3),

1 the Assistant Secretary shall annually submit to
2 Congress a report concerning the results and effec-
3 tiveness of the programs carried out with assistance
4 received under this section.

5 “(5) LIMITATION.—An eligible entity shall use
6 not more than 20 percent of amounts received under
7 a grant under this section to carry out evaluation
8 activities under this subsection.

9 “(g) INFORMATION AND EDUCATION.—The Sec-
10 retary shall disseminate best practices based on the find-
11 ings of the knowledge development and application under
12 this section.

13 “(h) AMOUNT OF GRANTS AND AUTHORIZATION OF
14 APPROPRIATIONS.—

15 “(1) AMOUNT OF GRANTS.—A grant under this
16 section shall be in an amount that is not more than
17 \$2,000,000 for each of the first 5 fiscal years fol-
18 lowing the date of enactment of the Mental Health
19 Services for Students Act of 2025. The Secretary
20 shall determine the amount of each such grant based
21 on the population of children up to age 21 of the
22 area to be served under the grant.

23 “(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
24 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out

1 this section, \$300,000,000 for each of fiscal years
2 2027 through 2028.”.

3 (c) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Part G of title V of
4 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290hh et seq.),
5 as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by strik-
6 ing the part designation and heading and inserting the
7 following:

8 **“PART G—SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH”.**

