

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 7497

To amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to improve trauma support services and mental health care for children and youth in educational settings, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 11, 2026

Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Ms. BROWN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. FROST, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. FIELDS, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. SALINAS, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. GRIJALVA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Workforce

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## A BILL

To amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to improve trauma support services and mental health care for children and youth in educational settings, and for other purposes.

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 “Supporting Trauma-  
5       Informed Education Practices Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND**  
2 **COMMUNITIES ACT.**

3 Section 7134 of the SUPPORT for Patients and  
4 Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 280h–7) is amended to read  
5 as follows:

6 **“SEC. 7134. GRANTS TO IMPROVE TRAUMA SUPPORT SERV-**  
7 **ICES AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHIL-**  
8 **DREN AND YOUTH IN EDUCATIONAL SET-**  
9 **TINGS.**

10 “(a) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.—

11 “(1) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE  
12 AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary, in co-  
13 ordination with the Secretary of Health and Human  
14 Services, is authorized to award grants to, or enter  
15 into contracts or cooperative agreements with, an el-  
16 igible entity for the purpose of increasing student,  
17 teacher, school leader, and other school personnel ac-  
18 cess to evidence-based trauma support services and  
19 mental health services by developing innovative ini-  
20 tiatives, activities, or programs to connect schools  
21 and local educational agencies, or tribal educational  
22 agencies, as applicable, with community trauma-in-  
23 formed support and mental health systems, includ-  
24 ing such systems under the Indian Health Service.

1           “(2) RESERVATIONS.—From the total amount  
2           appropriated under subsection (l) for a fiscal year,  
3           the Secretary shall reserve—

4                   “(A) not more than 3 percent to conduct  
5           the evaluation under subsection (f); and

6                   “(B) not more than 2 percent for technical  
7           assistance and administration.

8           “(b) DURATION.—With respect to a grant, contract,  
9           or cooperative agreement awarded or entered into under  
10          this section, the period during which payments under such  
11          grant, contract or agreement are made to the recipient  
12          may not exceed 5 years.

13          “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives  
14          or enters into a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement  
15          under this section shall use amounts made available  
16          through such grant, contract, or cooperative agreement for  
17          evidence-based initiatives, activities, or programs, which  
18          shall include at least 1 of the following:

19                   “(1) Enhancing, improving, or developing col-  
20          laborative efforts between schools, local educational  
21          agencies or tribal educational agencies, as applicable,  
22          and community mental health and trauma-informed  
23          service delivery systems to provide, develop, or im-  
24          prove prevention, referral, treatment, and support  
25          services to students.

1           “(2) Implementing trauma-informed models of  
2           support, including positive behavioral interventions  
3           and supports in schools served by the eligible entity.

4           “(3) Providing professional development to  
5           teachers, paraprofessionals, school leaders, school-  
6           based mental health services providers, and other  
7           specialized instructional support personnel employed  
8           by local educational agencies or tribal educational  
9           agencies, as applicable or schools served by the eligi-  
10          ble entity that—

11                 “(A) fosters safe and stable learning envi-  
12                 ronments that prevent and mitigate the effects  
13                 of trauma, including through social and emo-  
14                 tional learning;

15                 “(B) improves school capacity to identify,  
16                 refer, and provide services to students in need  
17                 of trauma-informed support or mental health  
18                 services, including by helping educators to iden-  
19                 tify the unique personal and contextual vari-  
20                 ables that influence the manifestation of trau-  
21                 ma; and

22                 “(C) reflects the best practices for trauma-  
23                 informed identification, referral, and support  
24                 developed by the Interagency Task Force on

1 Trauma-Informed Care (as established by sec-  
2 tion 7132).

3 “(4) Providing trauma-informed support serv-  
4 ices and mental health services to students at full-  
5 service community schools served by the eligible enti-  
6 ty.

7 “(5) Engaging families and communities to in-  
8 crease awareness of child and youth trauma, which  
9 may include sharing best practices with law enforce-  
10 ment regarding trauma-informed services and work-  
11 ing with mental health professionals to provide inter-  
12 ventions and longer term coordinated care within the  
13 community for children and youth who have experi-  
14 enced trauma and the families of such children and  
15 youth.

16 “(6) Evaluating the effectiveness of the initia-  
17 tives, activities, or programs carried out under this  
18 section in increasing student access to evidence-  
19 based trauma support services and mental health  
20 services.

21 “(7) Establishing partnerships with or pro-  
22 viding subgrants to early childhood education pro-  
23 grams or other eligible entities, to include such enti-  
24 ties in the evidence-based trauma-informed or men-  
25 tal health initiatives, activities, and support services

1 established under this section in order to provide,  
2 develop, or improve prevention, referral, treatment,  
3 and support services to children and their families.

4 “(8) Establishing new, or enhancing existing,  
5 evidence-based educational, awareness, and preven-  
6 tion programs to improve mental health and resil-  
7 iency among teachers, paraprofessionals, school lead-  
8 ers, school-based mental health services providers,  
9 and other specialized instructional support personnel  
10 employed by local educational agencies or tribal edu-  
11 cational agencies, as applicable, or schools served by  
12 the eligible entity.

13 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
14 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this sec-  
15 tion, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the  
16 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing  
17 such information as the Secretary may reasonably require,  
18 which shall include the following:

19 “(1) A description of the innovative initiatives,  
20 activities, or programs to be funded under the grant,  
21 contract, or cooperative agreement, including how  
22 such initiatives, activities, or programs will increase  
23 access to evidence-based trauma-informed support  
24 services and mental health services for students,  
25 and, as applicable, the families of such students.

1           “(2) A description of how the initiatives, activi-  
2           ties, or programs will provide linguistically appro-  
3           priate and culturally competent services.

4           “(3) A description of how the initiatives, activi-  
5           ties, or programs will support schools served by the  
6           eligible entity in improving school climate in order to  
7           support an environment conducive to learning.

8           “(4) An assurance that—

9                   “(A) persons providing services under the  
10                  initiative, activity, or program funded by the  
11                  grant, contract, or cooperative agreement are  
12                  fully licensed or certified to provide such serv-  
13                  ices;

14                  “(B) teachers, school leaders, administra-  
15                  tors, school-based mental health services pro-  
16                  viders and other specialized instructional sup-  
17                  port personnel, representatives of local Indian  
18                  Tribes or tribal organizations as appropriate,  
19                  other school personnel, individuals who have ex-  
20                  perience receiving mental health services as  
21                  children, and parents of students participating  
22                  in services under this section will be engaged  
23                  and involved in the design and implementation  
24                  of the services; and

1           “(C) the eligible entity will comply with the  
2           evaluation required under subsection (f).

3           “(5) A description of how the eligible entity will  
4           support and integrate existing school-based services  
5           at schools served by the eligible entity with the ini-  
6           tiatives, activities, or programs funded under this  
7           section in order to provide trauma-informed support  
8           services or mental health services for students, as  
9           appropriate.

10          “(6) A description of how the eligible entity will  
11          incorporate peer support services into the initiatives,  
12          activities, or programs to be funded under this sec-  
13          tion.

14          “(7) A description of how the eligible entity will  
15          ensure that initiatives, activities, or programs fund-  
16          ed under this section are accessible to and include  
17          students with disabilities.

18          “(8) An assurance that the eligible entity will  
19          establish a local interagency agreement under sub-  
20          section (e) and comply with such agreement.

21          “(e) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—

22          “(1) LOCAL INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—In  
23          carrying out an evidence-based initiative, activity, or  
24          program described in subsection (c), an eligible enti-  
25          ty that receives a grant, contract, or cooperative



1       agreement under this section, or a designee of such  
2       entity, shall establish an interagency agreement be-  
3       tween local educational agencies, agencies respon-  
4       sible for early childhood education programs, Head  
5       Start agencies (including Early Head Start agen-  
6       cies), juvenile justice authorities, mental health  
7       agencies, child welfare agencies, and other relevant  
8       agencies, authorities, or entities in the community  
9       that will be involved in the provision of services  
10      under such initiative, activity, or program.

11           “(2) CONTENTS.—The local interagency agree-  
12      ment required under paragraph (1) shall specify,  
13      with respect to each agency, authority, or entity that  
14      is a party to such agreement—

15           “(A) the financial responsibility for any  
16      services provided by such entity;

17           “(B) the conditions and terms of responsi-  
18      bility for such services, including quality, ac-  
19      countability, and coordination of the services;  
20      and

21           “(C) the conditions and terms of reim-  
22      bursement of such agencies, authorities, or enti-  
23      ties, including procedures for dispute resolution.

24           “(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall conduct a  
25      rigorous and independent evaluation of the initiatives, ac-

1 tivities, and programs carried out by an eligible entity  
2 under this section and disseminate evidence-based prac-  
3 tices regarding trauma-informed support services and  
4 mental health services.

5 “(g) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary  
6 shall ensure that grants, contracts, and cooperative agree-  
7 ments awarded or entered into under this section are equi-  
8 tably distributed among the geographical regions of the  
9 United States and among tribal, urban, suburban, and  
10 rural populations.

11 “(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
12 tion shall be construed—

13 “(1) to prohibit an entity involved with an ini-  
14 tiative, activity, or program carried out under this  
15 section from reporting a crime that is committed by  
16 a student to appropriate authorities; or

17 “(2) to prevent Federal, State, local, and tribal  
18 law enforcement and judicial authorities from exer-  
19 cising their responsibilities with regard to the appli-  
20 cation of Federal, State, local, and tribal law to  
21 crimes committed by a student.

22 “(i) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Federal funds  
23 provided under this section shall be used to supplement,  
24 and not supplant, other Federal, State, or local funds

1 available to carry out the initiatives, activities, and pro-  
2 grams described in this section.

3 “(j) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In awarding or en-  
4 tering into grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements  
5 under this section, the Secretary shall, in a timely manner,  
6 meaningfully consult with Indian Tribes, Regional Cor-  
7 porations, Native Hawaiian Educational Organizations,  
8 and their representatives to ensure notice of eligibility.

9 “(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRO-  
11 GRAM.—The term ‘early childhood education pro-  
12 gram’ has the meaning given such term in section  
13 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
14 U.S.C. 1003).

15 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
16 tity’ means—

17 “(A) a State educational agency;

18 “(B) a local educational agency;

19 “(C) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section  
20 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-  
21 cation Assistance Act) or their tribal edu-  
22 cational agency;

23 “(D) the Bureau of Indian Education;

24 “(E) a Regional Corporation;

1           “(F) a Native Hawaiian educational orga-  
2           nization; and

3           “(G) State, Territory, and Tribal Lead  
4           Agencies administering the Child Care and De-  
5           velopment Fund as described in section  
6           658D(a) of the Child Care and Development  
7           Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9858b(a)).

8           “(3) ESEA TERMS.—

9           “(A) The terms ‘elementary school’, ‘evi-  
10          dence-based’, ‘local educational agency’, ‘para-  
11          professional’, ‘parent’, ‘professional develop-  
12          ment’, ‘school leader’, ‘secondary school’, ‘Sec-  
13          retary’, ‘specialized instructional support per-  
14          sonnel’, and ‘State educational agency’ have the  
15          meanings given such terms in section 8101 of  
16          the Elementary and Secondary Education Act  
17          of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

18          “(B) The term ‘full-service community  
19          school’ has the meaning given such term in sec-  
20          tion 4622 of the Elementary and Secondary  
21          Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7272).

22          “(C) The term ‘Native Hawaiian edu-  
23          cational organization’ has the meaning given  
24          such term in section 6207 of the Elementary

1           and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
2           U.S.C. 7517).

3           “(D) The term ‘school-based mental health  
4           services provider’ has the meaning given the  
5           term in section 4102 of the Elementary and  
6           Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
7           7112).

8           “(4) REGIONAL CORPORATION.—The term ‘Re-  
9           gional Corporation’ has the meaning given the term  
10          in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement  
11          Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

12          “(5) SCHOOL.—The term ‘school’ means a pub-  
13          lic elementary school or public secondary school.

14          “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
15          are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,  
16          \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.”.

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