

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9867

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance to States on strategies under Medicaid and CHIP to increase mental health and substance use disorder care provider education, training, recruitment, and retention.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 22, 2026

Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance to States on strategies under Medicaid and CHIP to increase mental health and substance use disorder care provider education, training, recruitment, and retention.

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 “Expand the Behavioral
5 Health Workforce Now Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GUIDANCE TO STATES ON STRATEGIES UNDER**
2 **MEDICAID AND CHIP TO INCREASE MENTAL**
3 **HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**
4 **CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION, TRAINING, RE-**
5 **CRUITMENT, AND RETENTION.**

6 Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment
7 of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services
8 shall issue guidance to States on strategies under Med-
9 icaid and CHIP to increase education, training, recruit-
10 ment, and retention of mental health and substance use
11 disorder care providers that participate in Medicaid or
12 CHIP, with a focus on improving the capacity of the men-
13 tal health and substance use disorder care workforce in
14 rural and underserved areas. Such guidance shall include,
15 and not be limited to, strategies on how States may utilize
16 waivers under section 1115 of the Social Security Act (42
17 U.S.C. 1315) and authorities under titles XIX and XXI
18 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq., 1397aa et seq.) for
19 such purposes.

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