

119TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4514

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.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 13, 2026

Ms. DUCKWORTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## 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 2026”.

6       **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

1           (1) ADVISORY BOARD.—The term “Advisory  
2 Board” means the Advisory Board established pur-  
3 suant to section 5(a).

4           (2) CORRECTIONS OFFICER.—The term “cor-  
5 rections officer” means an officer or employee—

6                 (A) of any detention facility, including a  
7 prison or jail, operated by, or under contract  
8 with, a Federal agency; and

9                 (B) the job responsibilities of whom in-  
10 clude providing for the custody of incarcerated  
11 individuals.

12           (3) ELIGIBLE DETENTION CENTER.—The term  
13 “eligible detention center” means—

14                 (A) any prison or jail administered by the  
15 Bureau of Prisons or a State; and

16                 (B) any jail administered by a State or lo-  
17 cality.

18           (4) JAIL; PRISON.—The terms “jail” and “pris-  
19 on” have the meanings given those terms in section  
20 10 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (34  
21 U.S.C. 30309).

22           (5) JAIL OR PRISON ADMINISTRATOR.—The  
23 term “jail or prison administrator” means an indi-  
24 vidual who has been appointed to a supervisory posi-

tion in a Federal, State, or local jail or prison by the Federal Government, a State, or a locality.

(6) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term “law enforcement officer” means an officer of an entity administered by the Federal Government, a State, or locality that exists primarily to prevent and detect crime and enforce criminal laws.

(7) LOCALITY.—The term “locality” means any city, county, township, town, borough, parish, village, or other general purpose political subdivision of a State.

(8) MENTAL HEALTH CARE CENTER.—The term “mental health care center” means a facility, such as a hospital or private clinic, at which not less than 1 mental health care provider offers mental health services.

(9) MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The term “mental health care provider” means—

(A) a fully licensed professional or group of professionals who—

(i) diagnoses mental health conditions;

(ii) provides mental health treatment;

and

(iii) operates near an eligible detention center; and

1 (B) includes a professional or group de-  
 2 scribed in subparagraph (A) that provides men-  
 3 tal health services at a hospital or private clinic.

4 (10) MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING SURVEY.—  
 5 The term “mental health screening survey” means a  
 6 mental health screening survey developed and ad-  
 7 ministered by a State or locality pursuant to section  
 8 3(d)(1).

9 (11) MENTAL ILLNESS.—The term “mental ill-  
 10 ness” means a mental, behavioral, or emotional dis-  
 11 order that—

12 (A) results in serious functional impair-  
 13 ment; and

14 (B) substantially interferes with or limits  
 15 major life activities.

16 (12) STATE.—The term “State” means any  
 17 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
 18 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-  
 19 lands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-  
 20 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

21 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after  
 23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General  
 24 shall establish a grant program to award grants to States  
 25 and localities to—

1           (1) implement and administer mental health  
2           screenings to corrections officers at eligible detention  
3           centers; and

4           (2) as applicable, refer corrections officers de-  
5           scribed in paragraph (1) to mental health care pro-  
6           viders.

7           (b) APPLICATION.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—A State or locality seeking a  
9           grant under this section shall submit to the Attorney  
10          General an application at such time, in such man-  
11          ner, and containing such information as the Attor-  
12          ney General may reasonably require.

13          (2) CONTENTS.—A State or locality submitting  
14          an application under paragraph (1) shall include in  
15          the application—

16                (A) a description of and a plan for the use  
17                of amounts from a grant under this section, as  
18                described in subsection (c); and

19                (B) an assurance that the State or locality  
20                will hire a mental health liaison staff member  
21                to coordinate among—

22                       (i) eligible detention centers;

23                       (ii) mental health providers;

24                       (iii) the Advisory Board; and

1 (iv) the outreach team of the State or  
2 locality established pursuant to subsection  
3 (e).

4 (c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—A State or locality receiv-  
5 ing a grant under this section may use amounts from the  
6 grant only for the following:

7 (1) To develop and administer the mental  
8 health screening survey.

9 (2) To develop any technology necessary for an  
10 eligible detention center to provide the mental health  
11 screening survey.

12 (3) To hire any staff necessary for an eligible  
13 detention center to provide the mental health screen-  
14 ing survey.

15 (4) To establish an outreach team pursuant to  
16 subsection (e).

17 (5) To pay the salaries or overtime pay of mem-  
18 bers of the mental health outreach team established  
19 pursuant to subsection (e), including by providing  
20 direct funding to an eligible detention center to com-  
21 pensate staff members of the mental health outreach  
22 team.

23 (d) BRIEF MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING SURVEY.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State or locality receiving  
25 a grant under this section shall develop or adopt a

1        mental health screening survey, and administer a  
2        mental health screening survey, that—

3                (A) is for corrections officers of eligible de-  
4        tention centers;

5                (B) may be based on the questions and  
6        content of—

7                        (i) the standard mental health screen-  
8        ing of the Employee Assistance Program of  
9        the Federal Bureau of Prisons; or

10                      (ii) the initial mental health screening  
11        standard of the Bureau of Prisons;

12                (C) seeks to identify mental illnesses, in-  
13        cluding schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and  
14        major depression;

15                (D) asks an individual about—

16                      (i) the symptoms of mental illness the  
17        individual may be experiencing or has ex-  
18        perience; and

19                      (ii) any prior use of mental health-re-  
20        lated medications or inpatient care;

21                (E) identifies the place of residence of an  
22        individual;

23                (F) is administered by a trained staff  
24        member at the applicable eligible detention cen-  
25        ter to all corrections officers; and

1 (G) is anonymous and confidential.

2 (2) REFERRAL.—

3 (A) NOTIFICATION.—If the responses of a  
4 correctional officer to the mental health screen-  
5 ing survey indicate mental illness, the trained  
6 staff member administering the survey shall im-  
7 mediately notify the applicable mental health  
8 outreach team established pursuant to sub-  
9 section (e).

10 (B) ACTION BY OUTREACH TEAM.—Upon  
11 receiving a notification of a correctional officer  
12 with a potential mental illness under subpara-  
13 graph (A), the applicable mental health out-  
14 reach team established pursuant to subsection  
15 (e) shall—

16 (i) refer the correctional officer to a  
17 local mental health care provider for—

18 (I) further assessment and out-  
19 reach; and

20 (II) if necessary, admission to a  
21 mental health care center; and

22 (ii) support the correctional officer in  
23 re-establishing ties with a mental health  
24 provider.



1 (e) OUTREACH TEAM.—A State or locality receiving  
2 a grant under this section shall establish a mental health  
3 outreach team composed of—

4 (1) mental health care providers;

5 (2) if applicable, staff from an eligible detention  
6 center; and

7 (3) a mental health liaison staff member that  
8 oversees the mental health outreach team.

9 **SEC. 4. BUREAU OF PRISONS.**

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

12 (1) establish a program to develop and admin-  
13 ister mental health surveys meeting the requirement  
14 of mental health screening surveys described in sec-  
15 tion 2(d)(1) to corrections officers of the Bureau of  
16 Prisons;

17 (2) establish and maintain an outreach team  
18 meeting the requirements of a mental health out-  
19 reach team under section 2(e) to refer corrections  
20 officers to mental health care providers, as appro-  
21 priate; and

22 (3) submit to the Advisory Board a plan for the  
23 implementation of the program described in para-  
24 graph (1).

1 **SEC. 5. ADVISORY BOARD ON PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after  
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-  
5 eral shall establish an Advisory Board to manage  
6 and administer the grant program under section 3.

7 (2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Board shall have  
8 responsibility for the following:

9 (A) Evaluating and approving the plans  
10 submitted by a State or locality under section  
11 3(b)(2)(A).

12 (B) Ensuring that amounts from a grant  
13 under section 3 are used in accordance with  
14 section 3(c).

15 (C) Monitoring plans submitted by the Bu-  
16 reau of Prisons in accordance with section 4(3)  
17 and advise the Attorney General on compliance  
18 to ensure that the Bureau of Prisons uses  
19 amounts appropriated to the Bureau of Prisons  
20 to carry out section 4.

21 (D) Providing technical assistance to a  
22 State or locality to help with the implementa-  
23 tion and administration of mental health  
24 screening and referral programs established by  
25 States and localities receiving a grant under  
26 section 3.

1           (E) Creating a working group of mental  
2 health care providers, jail or prison administra-  
3 tors, law enforcement officers, and operators of  
4 existing mental health screening and referral  
5 programs to share best practices on how to cre-  
6 ate and implement mental health screening and  
7 referral programs that have the largest impact  
8 on reducing crime rates and improving employ-  
9 ment and wage rates for individuals released  
10 from prison or jail.

11           (F) Working in coordination with mental  
12 health outreach teams established pursuant to  
13 section 3(e) to ensure that the grant program  
14 under section 3 operates in accordance with  
15 that section.

16           (G) Determining whether a State or local-  
17 ity receiving a grant under section 3 is not com-  
18 plying with the requirements of that section.

19           (H) Mandating necessary changes for  
20 States and localities not complying with the re-  
21 quirements of section 3 and reducing grant  
22 funding to those States and localities if the  
23 States and localities do not make those  
24 changes.

1 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Advisory Board  
2 shall—

3 (1) provide technical assistance to—

4 (A) the States and localities receiving a  
5 grant under section 3 in carrying out the re-  
6 quirements of the grant; and

7 (B) the Director of the Bureau of Prisons  
8 in carrying out the requirements under section  
9 4; and

10 (2) identify evidence-backed models for the ad-  
11 ministration of mental health screening and referral  
12 programs that the Bureau of Prisons, States, and lo-  
13 calities can look to when designing their own pro-  
14 grams.

15 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall  
17 appoint members to serve on the Advisory Board  
18 who have expertise in—

19 (A) designing and administering employee  
20 mental health screenings and providing mental  
21 health referrals for employees;

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

1 (C) mental health program evaluation  
2 using rigorous experimental and quasi-experi-  
3 mental statistical methods.

4 (2) NUMBER OF MEMBERS.—The Attorney  
5 General—

6 (A) shall appoint to the Advisory Board  
7 not less than 3 members; and

8 (B) in addition to the members required  
9 under subparagraph (A), may appoint to the  
10 Advisory Board as many members as the Attor-  
11 ney General determines appropriate.

12 **SEC. 6. SAFE HARBOR.**

13 A State or locality receiving a grant under section  
14 3 and the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall ensure  
15 that, with respect to a corrections officer experiencing a  
16 mental health issue, the corrections officer—

17 (1) does not suffer an adverse employment out-  
18 come, including a fitness for duty evaluation as a re-  
19 sult of the mental health issue while the corrections  
20 officer is seeking and receiving treatment for the  
21 mental health issue; and

22 (2) determines the proper course of treatment  
23 in conjunction with the mental health care provider  
24 of the of the corrections officer.

1 **SEC. 7. FUNDING.**

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

4 (1) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

5 (2) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

6 (3) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

7 (4) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

8 (5) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.

9 (b) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts  
10 made available pursuant to subsection (a), the Attorney  
11 General shall use—

12 (1) 90 percent to carry out sections 3 and 4,  
13 of which—

14 (A) 20 percent shall be for the Director of  
15 the Bureau of Prisons to carry out section 4;

16 (B) 20 percent shall be for grants to  
17 States under section 3; and

18 (C) 50 percent shall be for grants to local-  
19 ities under section 3;

20 (2) 5 percent for the Advisory Board to carry  
21 out section 5(a)(2); and

22 (3) 5 percent for the Advisory Board to carry  
23 out section 5(b).

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