

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4819

To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish an EMS and First Responder Wellness Grant Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 17, 2026

Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. KING, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. COONS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. KELLY, Mr. BENNET, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish an EMS and First Responder Wellness Grant Program, 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 “Lifeline for First Re-
5 sponders Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMS AND FIRST RESPONDER WELLNESS GRANT**
 2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 23, United
 4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 408 the
 5 following:

6 **“§ 409. EMS and First Responder Wellness Grant Pro-**
 7 **gram**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
 9 through the Administrator of the National Highway Traf-
 10 fic Safety Administration (referred to in this section as
 11 the ‘Secretary’), shall establish a grant program, to be
 12 known as the ‘EMS and First Responder Wellness Grant
 13 Program’ (referred to in this section as the ‘program’),
 14 to support first responder mental health, stress reduction,
 15 family services, and suicide prevention.

16 “(b) PLACEMENT.—The program shall be carried out
 17 through the Office of Emergency Medical Services of the
 18 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

19 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-
 20 ceive a grant under the program is—

21 “(1) a Federal, State, Tribal, or local fire serv-
 22 ice that supplies emergency medical services;

23 “(2) an EMS agency; and

24 “(3) a dispatch center.

25 “(d) AUTHORIZED USES.—A grant provided under
 26 the program may be used for—

1 “(1) evidence-based stress reduction and mental
2 health services;

3 “(2) suicide prevention, intervention, and
4 postvention services;

5 “(3) confidential counseling, peer support, and
6 behavioral health services;

7 “(4) family support services for spouses and
8 children; and

9 “(5) outreach, stigma reduction, education,
10 training, and technical assistance.

11 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the program
13 \$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2032.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
15 ter 4 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by insert-
16 ing after the item relating to section 408 the following:

“409. EMS and First Responder Wellness Grant Program.”.

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