

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2567

To recruit, hire, and train additional school-based mental health personnel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 20, 1999

Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. FROST, Mr. FILNER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. OBERSTAR, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. OWENS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. WATERS, Ms. CARSON, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. MCKINNEY, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. GREEN of Texas) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To recruit, hire, and train additional school-based mental health personnel.

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. MENTAL HEALTH AND STUDENT SERVICE PRO-**
4 **VIDERS.**

5 Title X of the Elementary and Secondary Education
6 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8001 et seq.) is amended by add-
7 ing at the end the following:

1 **“PART L—MENTAL HEALTH AND STUDENT**
2 **SERVICE PROVIDERS**

3 **“SEC. 10993. FINDINGS.**

4 “Congress finds the following:

5 “(1) Although 7,500,000 children under the age
6 of 18 require mental health services, fewer than 1 in
7 5 of these children receive the services.

8 “(2) Across the United States, counseling pro-
9 fessionals are stretched thin, and often students do
10 not get the help the students need. The current na-
11 tional average ratio of students to counselors in ele-
12 mentary and secondary schools is 513:1.

13 “(3) United States schools need more mental
14 health professionals, and the flexibility to hire the
15 professionals that will best serve their students.

16 “(4) The maximum recommended ratio of—

17 “(A) students to counselors is 250:1;

18 “(B) students to psychologists is 1,000:1;

19 and

20 “(C) students to social workers is 800:1.

21 “(5) In States like California or Minnesota, 1
22 counselor typically serves more than 1,000 students.
23 In some schools, no counselor is available to assist
24 students in times of crisis, or at any other time. In
25 Colorado, the average student-to-counselor ratio is
26 645:1.

1 “(6) The number of students is expected to
2 grow significantly over the next few years. During
3 this time, many school-based mental health profes-
4 sionals who currently serve our Nation’s youth will
5 retire. Not counting these retirements, over 100,000
6 new school counselors will be needed to decrease the
7 student-to-counselor ratio to 250:1 by the year
8 2005.

9 “(7) The Federal support for reducing the stu-
10 dent-to-counselor ratio would pay for itself, through
11 reduced incidences of death, violence, and substance
12 abuse, and through improvements in students’ aca-
13 demic achievement, graduation rates, college attend-
14 ance, and employment.

15 **“SEC. 10993A. PURPOSE.**

16 “The purpose of this part is to help States and local
17 educational agencies recruit, train, and hire 141,000 addi-
18 tional school-based mental health personnel, including
19 100,000 additional counselors, 21,000 additional school
20 psychologists, and 20,000 additional school social workers
21 over a 5-year period—

22 “(1) to reduce the student-to-counselor ratios
23 nationally, in elementary and secondary schools, to
24 an average of—

1 “(A) 1 school counselor for every 250 stu-
2 dents

3 “(B) 1 school psychologist for every 1,000
4 students; and

5 “(C) 1 social worker for every 800 stu-
6 dents;

7 as recommended in a report by the Institute of Med-
8 icine of the National Academy of Sciences relating
9 to schools and health, issued in 1997;

10 “(2) to help adequately address the mental,
11 emotional, and developmental needs of elementary
12 and secondary school students;

13 “(3) to remove the emotional, behavioral, and
14 psycho-social barriers to learning so as to enhance
15 the classroom preparedness and ability to learn of
16 students;

17 “(4) to support school staff and teachers in im-
18 proving classroom management, conducting behav-
19 ioral interventions to improve school discipline, and
20 developing the awareness and skills to identify early
21 warning signs of violence and the need for mental
22 health services; and

23 “(5) to support parents in improving the school
24 behavior and academic success of their children.

1 **“SEC. 10993B. DEFINITIONS.**

2 “In this part:

3 “(1) MENTAL HEALTH AND STUDENT SERVICE
4 PROVIDER.—The term ‘mental health and student
5 service provider’ includes a qualified school coun-
6 selor, school psychologist, or school social worker.

7 “(2) MENTAL HEALTH AND STUDENT SERV-
8 ICES.—The term ‘mental health and student serv-
9 ices’ includes direct, individual, and group services
10 provided to students, parents, and school personnel
11 by mental health and student service providers, or
12 the coordination of prevention strategies in schools
13 or community-based programs.

14 “(3) POVERTY LINE.—The term “poverty line”
15 means the poverty line (as defined by the Office of
16 Management and Budget, and revised annually in
17 accordance with section 673(2) of the Community
18 Services Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9902(2)) appli-
19 cable to a family of the size involved.

20 “(4) SCHOOL COUNSELOR.—The term ‘school
21 counselor’ means an individual who has documented
22 competence in counseling children and adolescents in
23 a school setting and who—

24 “(A) possesses State licensure or certifi-
25 cation granted by an independent professional
26 regulatory authority;

1 “(B) in the absence of such State licensure
2 or certification, possesses national certification
3 in school counseling or a specialty of counseling
4 granted by an independent professional organi-
5 zation; or

6 “(C) holds a minimum of a master’s de-
7 gree in school counseling from a program ac-
8 credited by the Council for Accreditation of
9 Counseling and Related Educational Programs
10 or the equivalent.

11 “(5) SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST.—The term
12 ‘school psychologist’ means an individual who—

13 “(A) possesses a minimum of 60 graduate
14 semester hours in school psychology from an in-
15 stitution of higher education and has completed
16 1,200 clock hours in a supervised school psy-
17 chology internship, of which 600 hours shall be
18 in the school setting;

19 “(B) possesses State licensure or certifi-
20 cation in the State in which the individual
21 works; or

22 “(C) in the absence of such State licensure
23 or certification, possesses national certification
24 by the National School Psychology Certification
25 Board.

1 “(6) SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKER.—The term
 2 ‘school social worker’ means an individual who holds
 3 a master’s degree in social work and is licensed or
 4 certified by the State in which services are provided
 5 or holds a school social work specialist credential.

6 “(7) STATE.—The term ‘State’ means each of
 7 the several States of the United States, the District
 8 of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.

9 **“SEC. 10993C. ALLOTMENTS TO STATES.**

10 “(a) ALLOTMENTS.—From the amount appropriated
 11 under section 10993H for a fiscal year, the Secretary—

12 “(1) shall make a total of 1 percent available to
 13 the Secretary of the Interior (on behalf of the Bu-
 14 reau of Indian Affairs) and the outlying areas for
 15 activities that achieve the purposes of this part; and

16 “(2) shall allot to each eligible State the same
 17 percentage of the remaining funds as the percentage
 18 the State received of funds allocated to States for
 19 the previous fiscal year under part A of title I, ex-
 20 cept that such allotments shall be ratably decreased
 21 as necessary.

22 “(b) STATE-LEVEL EXPENSES.—Each State may use
 23 not more than $\frac{1}{2}$ of 1 percent of the amount the State
 24 receives under this part, or \$50,000, whichever is greater,

1 for a fiscal year, for the administrative costs of the State
2 educational agency in carrying out this part.

3 **“SEC. 10993D. STATE APPLICATIONS.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive an allot-
5 ment under section 10993C, a State shall submit an appli-
6 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
7 containing such information as the Secretary may require,
8 including an assurance that the State will provide the
9 State share of the cost described in section 10993G.

10 “(b) APPROVAL.—In approving the applications, the
11 Secretary shall, to the extent practicable, approve applica-
12 tions to fund, in the aggregate, 100,000 additional coun-
13 selors, 21,000 additional school psychologists, and 20,000
14 additional school social workers.

15 **“SEC. 10993E. ALLOCATIONS TO LOCAL EDUCATIONAL**
16 **AGENCIES.**

17 “(a) WITHIN STATE DISTRIBUTION.—

18 “(1) IN GENERAL.—After using funds in ac-
19 cordance with section 10993C(b), each State that re-
20 ceives an allotment under section 10993C shall allo-
21 cate to eligible local educational agencies in the
22 State the total of—

23 “(A) the amount of the allotted funds that
24 remain; and

1 “(B) the State share of the cost described
2 in section 10993G for the local educational
3 agencies.

4 “(2) ALLOCATION.—From the total described in
5 paragraph (1), the State shall allocate to each local
6 educational agency an amount equal to the sum of—

7 “(A) an amount that bears the same rela-
8 tionship to 80 percent of such total as the num-
9 ber of children in poverty who reside in the
10 school district served by the local educational
11 agency bears to the number of such children
12 who reside in all the school districts in the
13 State; and

14 “(B) an amount that bears the same rela-
15 tionship to 20 percent of such total as the num-
16 ber of children enrolled in public and private
17 nonprofit elementary schools and secondary
18 schools in the school district served by the local
19 educational agency bears to the number of chil-
20 dren enrolled in all such schools in the State.

21 “(3) DATA.—For purposes of paragraph (2),
22 the State shall use data from the most recent fiscal
23 year for which satisfactory data are available, except
24 that the State may adjust such data, or use alter-
25 native child poverty data, to carry out paragraph (2)

1 if the State demonstrates to the Secretary’s satisfac-
 2 tion that such adjusted or alternative data more ac-
 3 curately reflect the relative incidence of children who
 4 are living in poverty and who reside in the school
 5 districts in the State.

6 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 “(1) CHILD.—The term ‘child’ means an indi-
 8 vidual who is not less than 5 and not more than 17.

9 “(2) CHILD IN POVERTY.—The term ‘child in
 10 poverty’ means a child from a family with an income
 11 below the poverty line.

12 **“SEC. 10993F. LOCAL APPLICATIONS.**

13 “To be eligible to receive an allocation under section
 14 10993E, a local educational agency shall submit an appli-
 15 cation to the State at such time, in such manner, and con-
 16 taining such information as the State may require, includ-
 17 ing an assurance that the agency will provide the local
 18 share of the cost described in section 10993G.

19 **“SEC. 10993G. USE OF FUNDS.**

20 “(a) IN GENERAL.—A local educational agency that
 21 receives an allocation under section 10993E shall use the
 22 funds made available through the allocation to pay for the
 23 local share of the cost of recruiting, hiring, and training
 24 mental health and student service providers to provide

1 mental health and student services, to students in elemen-
2 tary schools and secondary schools, for a 1-year period.

3 “(b) FEDERAL, STATE, AND LOCAL SHARES.—

4 “(1) FEDERAL SHARE.—The Federal share of
5 the cost shall be $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent.

6 “(2) STATE SHARE.—The State share of the
7 cost shall be $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent.

8 “(3) LOCAL SHARE.—The local share of the
9 cost shall be $33\frac{1}{3}$ percent.

10 “(4) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—The non-Federal
11 share of the cost may be provided in cash or in kind,
12 fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment or serv-
13 ices.

14 **“SEC. 10993H. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 “To carry out this part, there are authorized to be
16 appropriated \$340,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2000
17 through 2004.”.

○