

112TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5996

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, to carry out a 5-year demonstration program to fund mental health first aid training programs at 10 institutions of higher education to improve student mental health.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 21, 2012

Mr. ALTMIRE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in coordination with the Secretary of Education, to carry out a 5-year demonstration program to fund mental health first aid training programs at 10 institutions of higher education to improve student mental health.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Mental Health First
3 Aid Higher Education Act of 2012”.

4 **SEC. 2. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM FOR MENTAL HEALTH**
5 **FIRST AID TRAINING AT INSTITUTIONS OF**
6 **HIGHER EDUCATION.**

7 (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

8 (1) The term “institution of higher education”
9 means an institution of higher education (as defined
10 in section 101(a) of the Higher Education Act of
11 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

12 (2) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
13 of Health and Human Services, acting through the
14 Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental
15 Health Services Administration, in coordination with
16 the Secretary of Education.

17 (b) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The
18 Secretary may carry out a demonstration program con-
19 sisting of awarding grants to 10 institutions of higher edu-
20 cation for implementation of a mental health first aid
21 training program described in subsection (d) to improve
22 student mental health.

23 (c) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM DURATION.—The
24 demonstration program under this section is authorized
25 to be carried out for a total period of not more than 5
26 years.

1 (d) MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING PRO-
2 GRAM DESCRIBED.—A mental health first aid training
3 program described in this subsection—

4 (1) shall be designed to train individuals in the
5 categories listed in subsection (e) to accomplish the
6 objectives described in subsection (f);

7 (2) shall ensure that training is conducted by
8 trainers that are properly licensed and credentialed
9 by nonprofit entities as designated by the Secretary;
10 and

11 (3) shall include—

12 (A) at a minimum—

13 (i) a core course of up to 12 hours in
14 length for individuals in the categories list-
15 ed in subsection (e) on the skills, re-
16 sources, and knowledge to assist individ-
17 uals in crisis to connect with appropriate
18 local mental health care services;

19 (ii) training on available off-campus
20 mental health resources in the State and
21 local community; and

22 (iii) training on action plans and pro-
23 tocols for referral to such resources; and

1 (B) where feasible, continuing education
2 and updated training for individuals in the cat-
3 egories listed in subsection (e).

4 (e) CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS TO BE
5 TRAINED.—The categories of individuals listed in this
6 subsection are, with respect to individuals at an institution
7 of higher education, the following:

8 (1) On-campus counseling center personnel.

9 (2) Dormitory resident advisers.

10 (3) Members of threat assessment and discipli-
11 nary committees.

12 (4) Faculty members.

13 (5) Coaches and other athletic department em-
14 ployees.

15 (6) Members of threat assessment teams.

16 (7) Other administrators and personnel of the
17 institution of higher education, as determined appro-
18 priate by the Secretary.

19 (f) OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING.—A mental health first
20 aid training program funded under this section shall be
21 designed to train individuals in the categories listed in
22 subsection (e) to accomplish each of the following objec-
23 tives:

24 (1) Safe de-escalation of crisis situations.

1 (2) Recognition by individuals in the categories
2 listed in subsection (e) of the signs and symptoms
3 of mental illness, including mental illnesses typically
4 encountered on campus such as schizophrenia, bipolar
5 disorder, major clinical depression, and anxiety
6 disorders.

7 (3) Timely referral to mental health services in
8 the early stages of developing mental disorders in
9 order to—

10 (A) avoid more costly subsequent behav-
11 ioral health care; and

12 (B) assist the student to maintain enroll-
13 ment.

14 (g) GEOGRAPHIC DIVERSITY.—In awarding grants
15 under subsection (b), the Secretary shall ensure that the
16 grant recipients are located in geographically disparate
17 cities and States across the United States.

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