

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1446

To establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training pilot program to address human trafficking in the health care system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2015

Ms. HEITKAMP (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training pilot program to address human trafficking in the health care system.

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 “SOAR to Health and
5 Wellness Act of 2015”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—The term “human
9 trafficking” has the meaning given the term “severe

1 forms of trafficking in persons” as defined in section
2 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of
3 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

6 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
8 pilot program to be known as “Stop, Observe, Ask, and
9 Respond to Health and Wellness Training” (or “SOAR
10 to Health and Wellness Training”) (referred to in this Act
11 as the “pilot program”), to provide training to health care
12 providers and other related providers, at all levels, on
13 human trafficking in accordance with the objectives de-
14 scribed in subsection (b).

15 (b) OBJECTIVES.—The objectives of the pilot pro-
16 gram established under subsection (a) shall be to train
17 health care providers and other related providers to enable
18 such providers to—

- 19 (1) identify potential human trafficking victims;
20 (2) implement proper protocols and procedures
21 for working with law enforcement to report, and fa-
22 cilitate communication with such victims, in accord-
23 ance with all applicable Federal, State, local, and
24 tribal requirements, including legal confidentiality
25 requirements for patients and health care providers;

1 (3) implement proper protocols and procedures
2 for referring such victims to appropriate social or
3 victims service agencies or organizations;

4 (4) provide such victims care that is—

5 (A) coordinated;

6 (B) victim centered;

7 (C) culturally relevant;

8 (D) comprehensive;

9 (E) evidence based;

10 (F) gender responsive;

11 (G) age appropriate, with a focus on care
12 for youth; and

13 (H) trauma informed; and

14 (5) consider the potential for integrating the
15 training described in paragraphs (1) through (4)
16 with training programs, in effect on the date of en-
17 actment of this Act, for victims of domestic violence,
18 dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse,
19 child neglect, child maltreatment, and child sexual
20 exploitation.

21 (c) FUNCTIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The functions of the pilot
23 program established under subsection (a) shall in-
24 clude the functions of the Stop, Observe, Ask, and
25 Respond to Health and Wellness Training program

1 that was operating on the day before the date of en-
2 actment of this Act and the authorized initiatives de-
3 scribed in paragraph (2).

4 (2) AUTHORIZED INITIATIVES.—The authorized
5 initiatives of the pilot program established under
6 subsection (a) shall include—

7 (A) engaging stakeholders, including vic-
8 tims of human trafficking and any Federal,
9 State, local, or tribal partners, to develop a
10 flexible training module—

11 (i) for achieving the objectives de-
12 scribed in subsection (b); and

13 (ii) that adapts to changing needs,
14 settings, health care providers, and other
15 related providers;

16 (B) making grants available to support
17 training in health care sites that represent di-
18 versity in—

19 (i) geography;

20 (ii) the demographics of the popu-
21 lation served;

22 (iii) the predominate types of human
23 trafficking cases; and

24 (iv) health care provider profiles;

1 (C) providing technical assistance for
2 health education programs to implement nation-
3 wide health care protocol, or develop continuing
4 education training materials, that assist in
5 achieving the objectives described in subsection
6 (b);

7 (D) developing a strategy to incentivize the
8 utilization of training materials developed under
9 subparagraph (C) and the implementation of
10 nationwide health care protocol described in
11 such subparagraph, as the Secretary determines
12 appropriate; and

13 (E) developing a reliable methodology for
14 collecting data, and reporting such data, on the
15 number of human trafficking victims identified
16 and served in health care settings or other re-
17 lated provider settings.

18 (d) TERMINATION.—The pilot program established
19 under subsection (a) shall terminate on October 1, 2021.

20 **SEC. 4. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING REQUIRE-**
21 **MENTS.**

22 (a) DATA COLLECTION.—During each of fiscal years
23 2016 through 2020, the Secretary shall collect data on
24 each of the following:

1 (1) The total number of facilities that were op-
2 erating under the pilot program established under
3 section 3(a)—

4 (A) during the previous fiscal year;

5 (B) between the previous fiscal year and
6 the date of enactment of this Act; and

7 (C) between the date of enactment of this
8 Act and the date of establishment of the Stop,
9 Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and
10 Wellness Training program that was operating
11 on the day before the date of enactment of this
12 Act.

13 (2) The total number of health care providers
14 and other related providers trained through the pilot
15 program established under such section—

16 (A) during the previous fiscal year;

17 (B) between the previous fiscal year and
18 the date of enactment of this Act; and

19 (C) between the date of enactment of this
20 Act and the date of establishment of the Stop,
21 Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and
22 Wellness Training program that was operating
23 on the day before the date of enactment of this
24 Act.

1 (b) REPORTING.—Not later than 90 days after the
2 first day of each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020, the
3 Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress a report
4 on the data collected under subsection (a).

5 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

6 There are authorized to be appropriated \$3,000,000
7 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

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