

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8136

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure that investigations of sexual misconduct by institutions of higher education are fair, trauma-informed, and evidence-based.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 28, 2020

Ms. SLOTKIN (for herself, Ms. FRANKEL, Ms. HAALAND, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to ensure that investigations of sexual misconduct by institutions of higher education are fair, trauma-informed, and evidence-based.

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 “Trauma-Informed In-
5 vestigation Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENTS.**

2 Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965
3 (20 U.S.C. 1094(a)) is amended by adding at the end the
4 following:

5 “(30) The institution will ensure that any in-
6 vestigation of sexual harassment or other sexual
7 misconduct carried out by the institution is a trauma-
8 ma-informed investigation that—

9 “(A) is equitable and timely;

10 “(B) is conducted in a manner that recog-
11 nizes the emotional, behavioral, developmental,
12 and legal challenges that can accompany trauma
13 exposure; and

14 “(C) includes evidence-based procedures,
15 informed by cognitive science, that are designed
16 to identify, address, and minimize further trauma
17 to victims.”.

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