

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 779

To amend title XIX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for prevention and early intervention services under the Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. KAINE, and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend title XIX of the Public Health Service Act to provide for prevention and early intervention services under the Block Grants for Community Mental Health Services 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 “Early Action and Re-
5 sponsiveness Lifts Youth Minds Act” or the “EARLY
6 Minds Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EARLY INTERVENTION.**

2 (a) STATE PLAN OPTION.—Section
3 1912(b)(1)(A)(vii) of the Public Health Service Act (42
4 U.S.C. 300x–1(b)(1)(A)(vii)) is amended—

5 (1) in subclause (III), by striking “and” at the
6 end;

7 (2) in subclause (IV), by striking the period at
8 the end and inserting “; and”; and

9 (3) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(V) a description of any evidence-based
11 prevention and early intervention strategies and
12 programs the State provides to prevent, delay,
13 or reduce the severity and onset of mental ill-
14 ness and behavioral problems, including for
15 children and adolescents, irrespective of experi-
16 encing a serious mental illness or serious emo-
17 tional disturbance, as defined under subsection
18 (c)(1).”.

19 (b) ALLOCATION ALLOWANCE; REPORTS.—Section
20 1920 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–
21 9) is amended by adding at the end the following:

22 “(e) PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION SERV-
23 ICES.—In the case of a State with a State plan that pro-
24 vides for strategies and programs specified in section
25 1912(b)(1)(A)(vii)(V), such State may expend not more
26 than 5 percent of the amount of the allotment of the State

1 pursuant to a funding agreement under section 1911 for
 2 each fiscal year to support such strategies and programs.

3 “(f) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year
 4 after the date of enactment of the EARLY Minds Act,
 5 and biennially thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to
 6 Congress a report on the prevention and early intervention
 7 strategies and programs pursued by States pursuant to
 8 subsection (e). Each such report shall include—

9 “(1) a list of the States that utilized the option
 10 to provide prevention and early intervention services;

11 “(2) a description of the prevention and early
 12 intervention activities of each such State;

13 “(3) the population served, including informa-
 14 tion on demographics, including age;

15 “(4) the outcomes of such activities, includ-
 16 ing—

17 “(A) how such activities reduced delays in
 18 access to mental and behavioral health care for
 19 children and adults; and

20 “(B) how such activities reduced the sever-
 21 ity of onset of serious mental illness and serious
 22 emotional disturbance; and

23 “(5) any other relevant information the Sec-
 24 retary determines necessary.”.

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