

118TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 8981

To amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to improve trauma support services and mental health care for children and youth in educational settings, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 10, 2024

Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Ms. BROWN, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MOULTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Mrs. RAMIREZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to improve trauma support services and mental health care for children and youth in educational settings, 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 “Supporting Trauma-
5 Informed Education Practices Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO THE SUPPORT FOR PATIENTS AND**
2 **COMMUNITIES ACT.**

3 Section 7134 of the SUPPORT for Patients and
4 Communities Act (42 U.S.C. 280h-7) is amended to read
5 as follows:

6 **“SEC. 7134. GRANTS TO IMPROVE TRAUMA SUPPORT SERV-**
7 **ICES AND MENTAL HEALTH CARE FOR CHIL-**
8 **DREN AND YOUTH IN EDUCATIONAL SET-**
9 **TINGS.**

10 **“(a) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.—**

11 **“(1) GRANTS, CONTRACTS, AND COOPERATIVE**
12 **AGREEMENTS AUTHORIZED.—**The Secretary, in co-
13 ordination with the Secretary of Health and Human
14 Services, is authorized to award grants to, or enter
15 into contracts or cooperative agreements with, an el-
16 igible entity for the purpose of increasing student,
17 teacher, school leader, and other school personnel ac-
18 cess to evidence-based trauma support services and
19 mental health services by developing innovative ini-
20 tiatives, activities, or programs to connect schools
21 and local educational agencies, or tribal educational
22 agencies, as applicable, with community trauma-in-
23 formed support and mental health systems, includ-
24 ing such systems under the Indian Health Service.

1 “(2) RESERVATIONS.—From the total amount
2 appropriated under subsection (l) for a fiscal year,
3 the Secretary shall reserve—

4 “(A) not more than 3 percent to conduct
5 the evaluation under subsection (f); and

6 “(B) not more than 2 percent for technical
7 assistance and administration.

8 “(b) DURATION.—With respect to a grant, contract,
9 or cooperative agreement awarded or entered into under
10 this section, the period during which payments under such
11 grant, contract or agreement are made to the recipient
12 may not exceed 5 years.

13 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that receives
14 or enters into a grant, contract, or cooperative agreement
15 under this section shall use amounts made available
16 through such grant, contract, or cooperative agreement for
17 evidence-based initiatives, activities, or programs, which
18 shall include at least 1 of the following:

19 “(1) Enhancing, improving, or developing col-
20 laborative efforts between schools, local educational
21 agencies or tribal educational agencies, as applicable,
22 and community mental health and trauma-informed
23 service delivery systems to provide, develop, or im-
24 prove prevention, referral, treatment, and support
25 services to students.

1 “(2) Implementing trauma-informed models of
2 support, including positive behavioral interventions
3 and supports in schools served by the eligible entity.

4 “(3) Providing professional development to
5 teachers, paraprofessionals, school leaders, school-
6 based mental health services providers, and other
7 specialized instructional support personnel employed
8 by local educational agencies or tribal educational
9 agencies, as applicable or schools served by the eligi-
10 ble entity that—

11 “(A) fosters safe and stable learning envi-
12 ronments that prevent and mitigate the effects
13 of trauma, including through social and emo-
14 tional learning;

15 “(B) improves school capacity to identify,
16 refer, and provide services to students in need
17 of trauma-informed support or mental health
18 services, including by helping educators to iden-
19 tify the unique personal and contextual vari-
20 ables that influence the manifestation of trau-
21 ma; and

22 “(C) reflects the best practices for trauma-
23 informed identification, referral, and support
24 developed by the Interagency Task Force on

1 Trauma-Informed Care (as established by sec-
2 tion 7132).

3 “(4) Providing trauma-informed support serv-
4 ices and mental health services to students at full-
5 service community schools served by the eligible enti-
6 ty.

7 “(5) Engaging families and communities to in-
8 crease awareness of child and youth trauma, which
9 may include sharing best practices with law enforce-
10 ment regarding trauma-informed services and work-
11 ing with mental health professionals to provide inter-
12 ventions and longer term coordinated care within the
13 community for children and youth who have experi-
14 enced trauma and the families of such children and
15 youth.

16 “(6) Evaluating the effectiveness of the initia-
17 tives, activities, or programs carried out under this
18 section in increasing student access to evidence-
19 based trauma support services and mental health
20 services.

21 “(7) Establishing partnerships with or pro-
22 viding subgrants to early childhood education pro-
23 grams or other eligible entities, to include such enti-
24 ties in the evidence-based trauma-informed or men-
25 tal health initiatives, activities, and support services

1 established under this section in order to provide,
2 develop, or improve prevention, referral, treatment,
3 and support services to children and their families.

4 “(8) Establishing new, or enhancing existing,
5 evidence-based educational, awareness, and preven-
6 tion programs to improve mental health and resil-
7 iency among teachers, paraprofessionals, school lead-
8 ers, school-based mental health services providers,
9 and other specialized instructional support personnel
10 employed by local educational agencies or tribal edu-
11 cational agencies, as applicable, or schools served by
12 the eligible entity.

13 “(d) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
14 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement under this sec-
15 tion, an eligible entity shall submit an application to the
16 Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing
17 such information as the Secretary may reasonably require,
18 which shall include the following:

19 “(1) A description of the innovative initiatives,
20 activities, or programs to be funded under the grant,
21 contract, or cooperative agreement, including how
22 such initiatives, activities, or programs will increase
23 access to evidence-based trauma-informed support
24 services and mental health services for students,
25 and, as applicable, the families of such students.

1 “(2) A description of how the initiatives, activi-
2 ties, or programs will provide linguistically appro-
3 priate and culturally competent services.

4 “(3) A description of how the initiatives, activi-
5 ties, or programs will support schools served by the
6 eligible entity in improving school climate in order to
7 support an environment conducive to learning.

8 “(4) An assurance that—

9 “(A) persons providing services under the
10 initiative, activity, or program funded by the
11 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement are
12 fully licensed or certified to provide such serv-
13 ices;

14 “(B) teachers, school leaders, administra-
15 tors, school-based mental health services pro-
16 viders and other specialized instructional sup-
17 port personnel, representatives of local Indian
18 Tribes or tribal organizations as appropriate,
19 other school personnel, individuals who have ex-
20 perience receiving mental health services as
21 children, and parents of students participating
22 in services under this section will be engaged
23 and involved in the design and implementation
24 of the services; and

1 “(C) the eligible entity will comply with the
2 evaluation required under subsection (f).

3 “(5) A description of how the eligible entity will
4 support and integrate existing school-based services
5 at schools served by the eligible entity with the ini-
6 tiatives, activities, or programs funded under this
7 section in order to provide trauma-informed support
8 services or mental health services for students, as
9 appropriate.

10 “(6) A description of how the eligible entity will
11 incorporate peer support services into the initiatives,
12 activities, or programs to be funded under this sec-
13 tion.

14 “(7) A description of how the eligible entity will
15 ensure that initiatives, activities, or programs fund-
16 ed under this section are accessible to and include
17 students with disabilities.

18 “(8) An assurance that the eligible entity will
19 establish a local interagency agreement under sub-
20 section (e) and comply with such agreement.

21 “(e) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—

22 “(1) LOCAL INTERAGENCY AGREEMENTS.—In
23 carrying out an evidence-based initiative, activity, or
24 program described in subsection (c), an eligible enti-
25 ty that receives a grant, contract, or cooperative

1 agreement under this section, or a designee of such
2 entity, shall establish an interagency agreement be-
3 tween local educational agencies, agencies respon-
4 sible for early childhood education programs, Head
5 Start agencies (including Early Head Start agen-
6 cies), juvenile justice authorities, mental health
7 agencies, child welfare agencies, and other relevant
8 agencies, authorities, or entities in the community
9 that will be involved in the provision of services
10 under such initiative, activity, or program.

11 “(2) CONTENTS.—The local interagency agree-
12 ment required under paragraph (1) shall specify,
13 with respect to each agency, authority, or entity that
14 is a party to such agreement—

15 “(A) the financial responsibility for any
16 services provided by such entity;

17 “(B) the conditions and terms of responsi-
18 bility for such any services, including quality,
19 accountability, and coordination of the services;
20 and

21 “(C) the conditions and terms of reim-
22 bursement of such agencies, authorities, or enti-
23 ties, including procedures for dispute resolution.

24 “(f) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall conduct a
25 rigorous and independent evaluation of the initiatives, ac-

1 tivities, and programs carried out by an eligible entity
2 under this section and disseminate evidence-based prac-
3 tices regarding trauma-informed support services and
4 mental health services.

5 “(g) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—The Secretary
6 shall ensure that grants, contracts, and cooperative agree-
7 ments awarded or entered into under this section are equi-
8 tably distributed among the geographical regions of the
9 United States and among tribal, urban, suburban, and
10 rural populations.

11 “(h) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
12 tion shall be construed—

13 “(1) to prohibit an entity involved with an ini-
14 tiative, activity, or program carried out under this
15 section from reporting a crime that is committed by
16 a student to appropriate authorities; or

17 “(2) to prevent Federal, State, local, and tribal
18 law enforcement and judicial authorities from exer-
19 cising their responsibilities with regard to the appli-
20 cation of Federal, State, local, and tribal law to
21 crimes committed by a student.

22 “(i) SUPPLEMENT, NOT SUPPLANT.—Federal funds
23 provided under this section shall be used to supplement,
24 and not supplant, other Federal, State, or local funds

1 available to carry out the initiatives, activities, and pro-
2 grams described in this section.

3 “(j) CONSULTATION REQUIRED.—In awarding or en-
4 tering into grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements
5 under this section, the Secretary shall, in a timely manner,
6 meaningfully consult with Indian Tribes, Regional Cor-
7 porations, Native Hawaiian Educational Organizations,
8 and their representatives to ensure notice of eligibility.

9 “(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

10 “(1) EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION PRO-
11 GRAM.—The term ‘early childhood education pro-
12 gram’ has the meaning given such term in section
13 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
14 U.S.C. 1003).

15 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
16 tity’ means—

17 “(A) a State educational agency;

18 “(B) a local educational agency;

19 “(C) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section
20 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
21 cation Assistance Act) or their tribal edu-
22 cational agency;

23 “(D) the Bureau of Indian Education;

24 “(E) a Regional Corporation;

1 “(F) a Native Hawaiian educational orga-
2 nization; and

3 “(G) State, Territory, and Tribal Lead
4 Agencies administering the Child Care and De-
5 velopment Fund as described in section
6 658D(a) of the Child Care and Development
7 Block Grant Act (42 U.S.C. 9858b(a)).

8 “(3) ESEA TERMS.—

9 “(A) The terms ‘elementary school’, ‘evi-
10 dence-based’, ‘local educational agency’, ‘para-
11 professional’, ‘parent’, ‘professional develop-
12 ment’, ‘school leader’, ‘secondary school’, ‘Sec-
13 retary’, ‘specialized instructional support per-
14 sonnel’, and ‘State educational agency’ have the
15 meanings given such terms in section 8101 of
16 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
17 of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

18 “(B) The term ‘full-service community
19 school’ has the meaning given such term in sec-
20 tion 4622 of the Elementary and Secondary
21 Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7272).

22 “(C) The term ‘Native Hawaiian edu-
23 cational organization’ has the meaning given
24 such term in section 6207 of the Elementary

1 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
2 U.S.C. 7517).

3 “(D) The term ‘school-based mental health
4 services provider’ has the meaning given the
5 term in section 4102 of the Elementary and
6 Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
7 7112).

8 “(4) REGIONAL CORPORATION.—The term ‘Re-
9 gional Corporation’ has the meaning given the term
10 in section 3 of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement
11 Act (43 U.S.C. 1602).

12 “(5) SCHOOL.—The term ‘school’ means a pub-
13 lic elementary school or public secondary school.

14 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
16 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.”.

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