

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6645

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2020

Mr. TONKO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, 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. RESEARCH ON THE MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT**  
4 **OF COVID-19.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
6 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-  
7 retary”), acting through the Director of the National In-

1 stitute of Mental Health, shall conduct or support re-  
2 search on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-  
3 2 or COVID-19.

4 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Research under subsection (a)  
5 may include—

6 (1) research on the mental health impact of  
7 SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 on health care pro-  
8 viders, including—

9 (A) traumatic stress;

10 (B) psychological distress; and

11 (C) psychiatric disorders; and

12 (2) research on the impact of SARS-CoV-2 or  
13 COVID-19 stressors on mental health over time;

14 (3) research to strengthen the mental health re-  
15 sponse to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, including  
16 adapting to and maintaining or providing additional  
17 services for new or increasing mental health needs;

18 (4) research on the reach, efficiency, effective-  
19 ness, and quality of digital mental health interven-  
20 tions;

21 (5) research on the effectiveness of strategies  
22 for implementation and delivery of evidence-based  
23 mental health interventions and services for under-  
24 served populations; and

25 (6) research on suicide prevention.

1           (c) RESEARCH COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall  
2 coordinate activities under this section with similar activi-  
3 ties conducted by national research institutes and centers  
4 of the National Institutes of Health to the extent that  
5 such institutes and centers have responsibilities that are  
6 related to the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-  
7 2 or COVID-19.

8           (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
9 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
10 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025,  
11 to remain available until expended.

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