

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7859

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration a Center for School Behavioral Health Technical Assistance, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2020

Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish in the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration a Center for School Behavioral Health Technical Assistance, 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 “Strengthening Behav-
5 ioral Health Supports for Schools Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. CENTER FOR SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH TECH-**
2 **NICAL ASSISTANCE.**

3 The Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201 et
4 seq.) is amended by inserting after section 520A of such
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–32) the following:

6 **“SEC. 520B. CENTER FOR SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH**
7 **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**

8 “(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the
9 Administration a Center for School Behavioral Health
10 Technical Assistance (in this section referred to as the
11 ‘Center’).

12 “(b) **SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH PROGRAM.**—
13 The Center shall carry out a program, to be known as
14 the School Behavioral Health Program, to provide tech-
15 nical assistance and support to schools and school systems
16 with respect to mental health and substance use disorders,
17 including by—

18 “(1) providing direct technical assistance and
19 training on—

20 “(A) the implementation of evidence-based,
21 culturally competent, and trauma-informed
22 mental health and substance use disorder serv-
23 ices in schools and school systems, including
24 processes for suicide prevention and trauma-in-
25 formed care;

1 “(B) the importance of evidence-based
2 mental health and substance use disorder serv-
3 ices in schools and linkages and referral to such
4 services where direct care is not possible; and

5 “(C) translation services, interpretation, or
6 other such services for individuals in schools
7 and school systems with limited English speak-
8 ing proficiency; and

9 “(2) disseminating information related to evi-
10 dence-based models of school-based mental health
11 and substance use disorder services, including ways
12 in which these models can be implemented and in-
13 corporating student literacy on mental and behav-
14 ioral health.

15 “(e) DATA COLLECTION.—The Center shall collect
16 data to support research with respect to prevention and
17 treatment for mental health and substance use disorders
18 in schools and school systems.

19 “(d) BEST PRACTICES.—The Center shall annually
20 issue evidence-based best practices with respect to mental
21 health and substance use disorders for use by schools and
22 school systems.

23 “(e) COORDINATION.—In carrying out this section,
24 the Center shall coordinate with—

1 “(1) the Department of Education, the Depart-
2 ment of Justice, and other agencies within the De-
3 partment of Health and Human Services, as appro-
4 priate;

5 “(2) the National Child Traumatic Stress Ini-
6 tiative under section 582; and

7 “(3) other programs of the Administration that
8 disseminate and implement evidence-based practices
9 for the continuum of prevention and treatment for
10 mental health and substance use disorders.

11 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
13 \$25,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.”.

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