

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 631

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 9, 2021

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

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “COVID-19 Mental
5 Health Research Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH ON THE MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT OF**
2 **COVID-19.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
4 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-
5 retary”), acting through the Director of the National In-
6 stitute of Mental Health, shall conduct or support re-
7 search on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-
8 2 or COVID-19.

9 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Research under subsection (a)
10 may include—

11 (1) research on the mental health impact of
12 SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 on health care pro-
13 viders, including—

14 (A) traumatic stress;

15 (B) psychological distress;

16 (C) psychiatric disorders; and

17 (D) longer-term stress, including burnout;

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

20 (3) research to strengthen the mental health re-
21 sponse to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, including
22 adapting to and maintaining or providing additional
23 services for new or increasing mental health needs;

24 (4) research on the reach, efficiency, effective-
25 ness, and quality of digital mental health interven-
26 tions;

1 (5) research on the effectiveness of strategies
2 for implementation and delivery of evidence-based
3 mental health interventions and services for under-
4 served populations;

5 (6) research on suicide prevention;

6 (7) research on the impact of SARS-CoV-2 or
7 COVID-19 on the mental health of specific popu-
8 lations, including children and adolescents, women,
9 older adults, individuals with disabilities, and mem-
10 bers of racial and ethnic minority groups; and

11 (8) research on the impact of SARS-CoV-2 or
12 COVID-19 on the mental health of individuals expe-
13 riencing long-term symptoms or side effects after in-
14 fection.

15 (c) RESEARCH COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall
16 coordinate activities under this section with similar activi-
17 ties conducted by national research institutes and centers
18 of the National Institutes of Health to the extent that
19 such institutes and centers have responsibilities that are
20 related to the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-
21 2 or COVID-19.

22 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
23 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
24 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026,
25 to remain available until expended.

1 (e) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Amounts made
2 available to carry out this section shall be used to supple-
3 ment, and not supplant, other funding made available to
4 the National Institute of Mental Health.

