

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3006

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the placement of students and licensed professional social workers in public libraries, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2023

Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, and Ms. SCHOLTEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the placement of students and licensed professional social workers in public libraries, 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. GRANTS FOR PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS AND**  
4 **SOCIAL WORKERS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than one year  
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of  
7 Education (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”)  
8 shall carry out a program under which the Secretary

1 makes grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of  
2 higher education to support the placement of students and  
3 licensed professional social workers in public libraries.

4 (b) APPLICATION.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a  
6 grant under this section, an institution of higher  
7 education shall submit to the Secretary an applica-  
8 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing  
9 such information as the Secretary may require. As  
10 part of such application the institution shall dem-  
11 onstrate that—

12 (A) it has established a partnership with  
13 each library in which a social worker or intern  
14 is expected to be placed pursuant to subsection  
15 (d);

16 (B) it has developed a thorough plan, in  
17 coordination with each such library, to support  
18 such social workers and interns; and

19 (C) each library in which a social worker  
20 or intern is expected to be placed pursuant to  
21 subsection (d) is in a community with a dem-  
22 onstrated need for social work support and  
23 services.

24 (2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In selecting institutions  
25 of higher education to receive grants under this sec-

1       tion, the Secretary shall give special consideration to  
2       institutions that will use the grant to serve commu-  
3       nities that are under resourced or have a high level  
4       of need for social workers.

5       (c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate  
6       with the Institute of Museum and Library Services to de-  
7       velop and review grant applications under this section,  
8       which shall include the solicitation of feedback from rel-  
9       evant stakeholders in the development of such materials.

10      (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An institution of higher edu-  
11      cation that receives a grant under this section shall use  
12      the grant—

13           (1)(A) to employ one or more licensed profes-  
14           sional social workers whom the institution shall seek  
15           to place on a full-time basis in public libraries in the  
16           geographic region surrounding the institution; or

17           (B) to arrange placements of one or more li-  
18           censed professional social workers who are employed  
19           by other entities, whom the institution shall seek to  
20           place on a full-time basis in public libraries in the  
21           geographic region surrounding the institution; and

22           (2) to arrange and fully fund internships and  
23           field placements at such libraries for students of the  
24           institution who are majoring in social work, includ-

1 ing students pursuing a bachelor's or master's de-  
2 gree in social work.

3 (e) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

4 (1) DUTIES OF INSTITUTIONS.—An institution  
5 of higher education that receives a grant under this  
6 section shall—

7 (A) be responsible for the payment and  
8 employment-related administration of the social  
9 workers placed at public libraries pursuant to  
10 subsection (d)(1)(A) and the interns placed at  
11 such libraries pursuant to subsection (d)(2);

12 (B) pay a wage of not less than \$15 per  
13 hour to each intern serving in a public library  
14 pursuant to subsection (d)(2);

15 (C) ensure that each such intern—

16 (i) is supervised by a licensed profes-  
17 sional social worker (who may be a social  
18 worker employed by the institution or a so-  
19 cial worker otherwise employed at the pub-  
20 lic library at which the intern serves); and

21 (ii) practices within the scope and lim-  
22 itations of a social work intern role as set  
23 forth by the accreditation standards of the  
24 Council on Social Work Education; and

1 (D) enter into and maintain a partnership  
2 with each library at which social workers and  
3 interns are placed by the institution to ensure  
4 that such social workers and interns are—

5 (i) continuously supported by the li-  
6 brary and the institution; and

7 (ii) able to carry out their duties ef-  
8 fectively.

9 (2) DUTIES OF SOCIAL WORKERS.—

10 (A) IN GENERAL.—The duties of a social  
11 worker placed at the public library pursuant to  
12 subsection (d)(1) shall be to provide services  
13 and support to the library and library patrons  
14 to boost the library’s capacity to address the  
15 holistic needs of patrons, including—

16 (i) information or referrals on health,  
17 mental health, nutrition, financial well-  
18 being and economic mobility, and other so-  
19 cial services for which the patron may be  
20 eligible;

21 (ii) direct assistance in applying for  
22 and accessing such services;

23 (iii) conducting library staff training  
24 on relevant topics within the social work-

1           ers' and social work interns' competence  
2           and scope of practice; and

3                   (iv) other duties as may be deter-  
4           mined by local conditions, the institution,  
5           and the participating library.

6           (B) CODE OF ETHICS.—A licensed profes-  
7           sional social worker or intern placed at the li-  
8           brary pursuant to subsection (d) shall be re-  
9           quired to adhere to the social work profession's  
10          code of ethics as set forth by the National Asso-  
11          ciation for Social Workers.

12          (C) LIMITATIONS.—A licensed professional  
13          social worker or intern placed at a library pur-  
14          suant to subsection (d)—

15                   (i) shall not be required to report an  
16           alien who is not in lawful immigration sta-  
17           tus to U.S. Immigration and Customs En-  
18           forcement and may provide such alien with  
19           appropriate professional services; and

20                   (ii) shall not be required to provide di-  
21           rect healthcare and mental health services  
22           to library patrons, such as the administra-  
23           tion of diagnostic medical tests.

1           (3) DUTIES OF LIBRARIES.—A library that en-  
2           ters into a partnership with an institution of higher  
3           education as described in paragraph (1)(D)—

4                   (A) shall—

5                           (i) provide social workers and interns  
6                           placed at the library with general support,  
7                           including access to resources (such as of-  
8                           fice space, technology, and staff time) to  
9                           ensure such social workers and interns are  
10                          able to effectively carry out their respon-  
11                          sibilities;

12                          (ii) provide input regarding the serv-  
13                          ices and programming offered by such so-  
14                          cial workers and interns; and

15                          (iii) adhere to the American Library  
16                          Association’s code of ethics; and

17                   (B) may designate members of the library  
18                   staff to serve as a preceptor or library task su-  
19                   pervisor for such interns.

20           (4) SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.—Subject to the  
21           availability of appropriations, an institution of high-  
22           er education that receives a grant under this section  
23           may apply—

24                   (A) to the Secretary for a supplementary  
25                   grant which, if received by such institution,

1 shall be used in accordance with the require-  
2 ments of this section; or

3 (B) to the Secretary for additional funds  
4 to support the maintenance of a program or de-  
5 partment established through the program under  
6 this section.

7 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary Education, in co-  
9 ordination with the Director of the Institute of Museum  
10 and Library Services and through the solicitation of feed-  
11 back from relevant stakeholders, shall establish an evalua-  
12 tion, documentation, dissemination, and technical assist-  
13 ance resource center to provide appropriate information,  
14 training, and technical assistance to States, political sub-  
15 divisions of States, federally recognized Indian Tribes,  
16 tribal organizations, institutions of higher education, State  
17 and local educational agencies, and individual students  
18 and educators with respect to—

19 (1) hiring and retaining social workers in li-  
20 braries; and

21 (2) carrying out programs to facilitate the  
22 placement of social workers in libraries on a tem-  
23 porary or permanent basis.

1 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CENTER.—The center  
2 established under subsection (a) shall conduct activities  
3 for the purpose of—

4 (1) developing and continuing statewide or trib-  
5 al strategies for improving the effectiveness of the  
6 social work and library workforce;

7 (2) studying the costs and effectiveness of li-  
8 brary social work programs at institutions of higher  
9 education to identify areas of improvement and pro-  
10 vide information on relevant issues of importance to  
11 State, Tribal, and national policymakers;

12 (3) working with Federal agencies and other  
13 State, Tribal, and national stakeholders to collect,  
14 evaluate, and disseminate data regarding social work  
15 ratios, outcomes and best practices of services pro-  
16 vided, and the impact of expanding the number of  
17 social workers within libraries; and

18 (4) establishing partnerships among National,  
19 State, Tribal, and local governments, and local edu-  
20 cational agencies, institutions of higher education, li-  
21 braries, nonprofit organizations, and State and na-  
22 tional trade associations for the purposes of—

23 (A) data collection and dissemination;

24 (B) establishing a library social work work-  
25 force development program;

1 (C) documenting the success of library so-  
2 cial work methods on a national level; and

3 (D) conducting other activities as deter-  
4 mined appropriate by the Secretary of Edu-  
5 cation.

6 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning  
9 given that term in section 202 of the Museum and  
10 Library Services Act (20 U.S.C. 9101).

11 (2) The term “institution of higher education”  
12 means an institution of higher education (as defined  
13 in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965  
14 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) acting through a school of social  
15 work within the institution that is accredited by the  
16 Council on Social Work Education.

17 (3) The term “library” has the meaning given  
18 that term in section 213 of the Library Services and  
19 Technology Act (20 U.S.C. 9122).

20 (4) The term “licensed professional social work-  
21 er” means a social worker who has a master’s or  
22 doctoral degree in social work.

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