

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4716

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to support teacher and school professional training on awareness of student mental health conditions and suicide prevention efforts.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 7, 2016

Mrs. BEATTY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to support teacher and school professional training on awareness of student mental health conditions and suicide prevention efforts.

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 “Support Our Students
5 Act of 2016” or the “S.O.S. Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Approximately 1 in 5 children have a
2 diagnosable mental illness.

3 (2) Fifty percent of all lifetime cases of lived
4 experience of mental illness begin by age 14, and 75
5 percent by age 24.

6 (3) Fifty percent of students with a mental ill-
7 ness, age 14 years and older, drop out of high
8 school.

9 (4) One in 10 children and adolescents suffer
10 from mental illness severe enough to cause some
11 level of impairment, but only 1 in 5 of such children
12 receive specialty mental health services.

13 (5) For youth between the ages of 10 and 24,
14 suicide is the third leading cause of death, and an
15 estimated 90 percent have a diagnosable mental
16 health condition.

17 (6) Annually, approximately 4,600 youth die as
18 a result of suicide and another 156,000 youth ages
19 10 to 24 are treated for self-inflicted injuries at
20 emergency rooms.

21 (7) The overwhelming majority of individuals
22 including teens, who attempt suicide, have one or
23 more psychiatric or mental health conditions.

1 (8) Suicide prevention and awareness efforts
2 are key in combating this often preventable loss of
3 life.

4 **SEC. 3. TRAINING TEACHERS AND SCHOOL PROFES-**
5 **SIONALS IN UNDERSTANDING MENTAL**
6 **HEALTH CONDITIONS IN CHILDREN.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title IV of the Elemen-
8 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
9 7131 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
10 lowing:

11 **“Subpart 3—Training Teachers and School Profes-**
12 **sionals in Understanding Mental Health Condi-**
13 **tions in Children**

14 **“SEC. 4131. PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**

15 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
16 grants to eligible State educational agencies to enable such
17 agencies to award subgrants to eligible local educational
18 agencies to support an existing, or develop a new, program
19 that will educate teachers, school personnel, and special-
20 ized instructional support personnel on mental health con-
21 ditions in children, including the causes, symptoms, and
22 impact on learning.

23 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

24 “(1) ELIGIBLE LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
25 CY.—The term ‘eligible local educational agency’

1 means a local educational agency or a local edu-
2 cational agency in partnership with a mental health
3 organization, family advocacy organization, or com-
4 munity nonprofit organization.

5 “(2) ELIGIBLE STATE EDUCATIONAL AGEN-
6 CY.—The term ‘eligible State educational agency’
7 means a State educational agency or a State edu-
8 cational agency in partnership with a mental health
9 organization, family advocacy organization, or com-
10 munity nonprofit organization.

11 “(3) SCHOOL PERSONNEL.—The term ‘school
12 personnel’ means administrators, administrative
13 staff, custodial staff, cafeteria staff, transportation
14 staff, and other school-employed staff who interact
15 with students.

16 “(4) SPECIALIZED INSTRUCTIONAL SUPPORT
17 PERSONNEL.—The term ‘specialized instructional
18 support personnel’ means school counselors, school
19 social workers, school psychologists, and other quali-
20 fied professional personnel involved in providing as-
21 sessment, diagnosis, counseling, educational, thera-
22 peutic, and other necessary services (including re-
23 lated services, as defined in section 602 of the Indi-
24 viduals with Disabilities Education Act) as part of
25 a comprehensive program to meet student needs.

1 **“SEC. 4132. GRANTS.**

2 “(a) APPLICATIONS.—An eligible State educational
3 agency that desires to receive a grant under this section
4 shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time,
5 in such manner, and accompanied by such information as
6 the Secretary may require.

7 “(b) ACTIVITIES.—An eligible State educational
8 agency that receives a grant under this section shall use
9 the grant funds to award subgrants to eligible local edu-
10 cational agencies in accordance with subsection (c).

11 **“SEC. 4133. SUBGRANTS.**

12 “(a) APPLICATION.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible local edu-
14 cational agency that desires to receive a subgrant
15 under this section shall submit an application to the
16 eligible State educational agency at such time, in
17 such manner, and accompanied by such information
18 as the eligible State educational agency may require.

19 “(2) DESCRIPTION OF UTILIZATION.—An appli-
20 cation submitted under subparagraph (A) shall in-
21 clude a description of how the local educational
22 agency will utilize school counselors, school psycholo-
23 gists, school social workers, or community organiza-
24 tions with expertise in the lived experience of mental
25 illness and suicide prevention efforts, in developing

1 and conducting the training described in paragraph
2 (2).

3 “(b) TRAINING.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible local edu-
5 cational agency that receives a subgrant under this
6 section shall support an existing training program
7 developed by either the school or a community orga-
8 nization with expertise in the lived experience of
9 mental illness and suicide prevention, or develop a
10 new program, in which school counselors, school psy-
11 chologists, and school social workers develop and
12 provide training to teachers, school personnel, and
13 specialized instructional support personnel in under-
14 standing the mental health needs of children. Such
15 program shall include an annual in-service training
16 program to enable such teachers, school personnel,
17 and specialized instructional support personnel—

18 “(A) to better understand mental health
19 conditions and the early warning signs in chil-
20 dren and adolescents;

21 “(B) to best communicate with families
22 about these concerns;

23 “(C) to identify classroom strategies for
24 working effectively with children with mental
25 health conditions; and

1 “(D) to understand school specific infor-
2 mation, including, as appropriate, how schools
3 are—

4 “(i) assisting in linking students to
5 supports and services; and

6 “(ii) providing information on the
7 school’s mental health services and sup-
8 ports, including school social work and
9 psychological services, as well as the
10 school’s referral process for additional
11 school-linked services connecting to com-
12 munity mental health professionals.

13 “(2) FAMILY PERSPECTIVE.—A training pro-
14 gram described in subparagraph (A) shall incor-
15 porate family and parent perspectives.

16 “(3) TRAINING PROGRAM FOR ALL AREAS OF
17 THE STATE AND FOR PERSONNEL SERVING INDIAN
18 CHILDREN.—

19 “(A) URBAN AND RURAL AREAS.—In
20 awarding subgrants under this section, a State
21 educational agency shall ensure training pro-
22 grams described under subparagraph (A) are
23 available for teachers, school personnel, and
24 specialized instructional support personnel in
25 urban and rural areas across the State.

1 “(B) INDIAN CHILDREN.—A State edu-
2 cational agency that receives a grant under this
3 section shall award subgrants to eligible local
4 educational agencies described in section
5 6112(b)(1) and Indian tribes described in sec-
6 tion 6112(c).

7 “(4) SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERV-
8 ICES PROVIDERS.—A training program described in
9 subparagraph (A) shall include a school-based men-
10 tal health service provider and a community organi-
11 zation with expertise in the lived experience of men-
12 tal illness or suicide prevention, whenever possible,
13 to maximize training outcomes and facilitate coordi-
14 nated referrals when more intensive community serv-
15 ices are needed.

16 “(c) GUIDELINES.—In carrying out a training pro-
17 gram described in paragraph (2), an eligible local edu-
18 cational agency may—

19 “(1) report to the Secretary on the agency’s
20 commitment to students with mental illness and sui-
21 cide prevention efforts through innovative programs,
22 resource development, and the development of a
23 mental health curriculum and activities that focus on
24 raising awareness within schools of early onset men-

1 tal health conditions and linking students with effective
2 mental health services and supports;

3 “(2) describe existing school-community partnerships that provide effective clinical services to
4 students with severe mental health needs;

6 “(3) describe how the agency will measure outcomes, as described in subsection (d), specifically for
7 students with serious mental health needs;

9 “(4) describe how the training program will be
10 effective for teachers, school personnel, and specialized instructional support personnel in culturally and
11 linguistically diverse school communities; and

13 “(5) describe any strong links to the community
14 mental health system and community mental health providers through interagency collaboration, including
15 documenting—

17 “(A) the extent of the interagency collaboration (including the engagement in joint activities); and
18

20 “(B) the dates during which the collaboration has been in effect and any outcomes that
21 have been achieved as a result of this activity.
22

23 **“SEC. 4134. EVALUATIONS AND MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.**

24 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall develop
25 measures of outcomes for eligible local educational agen-

1 cies that receive subgrants under this section, in order to
2 evaluate the effectiveness of programs carried out under
3 the subgrant.

4 “(b) OUTCOMES.—The measures of outcomes de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1) shall include, at a minimum, pro-
6 visions to evaluate—

7 “(1) the effectiveness of comprehensive school
8 mental health training and suicide prevention pro-
9 grams established under this section;

10 “(2) the effectiveness of formal partnership
11 linkages among child and family serving institutions,
12 community support systems, and the educational
13 system, if applicable;

14 “(3) the effectiveness of the training program
15 in culturally and linguistically diverse school commu-
16 nities;

17 “(4) the improvement in understanding mental
18 health conditions with the purpose of providing a
19 safe and supportive learning environment among
20 school staff, students, and parents;

21 “(5) the improvement in—

22 “(A) case-finding of students in need of
23 more intensive services;

24 “(B) effective communication with fami-
25 lies; and

1 “(C) referral of identified students with
2 mental health related concerns for an evalua-
3 tion for services and supports;

4 “(6) the reduction in the number of students
5 with mental health conditions and those identified as
6 children with disabilities under the emotional dis-
7 turbance and other health impairment categories of
8 the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act who
9 are suspended and an increase in the number of
10 such students who graduate from high school; and

11 “(7) the increased successful matriculation to
12 postsecondary school.

13 **“SEC. 4135. DATA COLLECTION COMPONENT.**

14 “(a) ANNUAL DATA SUBMISSIONS AND REPORTS.—

15 “(1) DATA SUBMISSION.—

16 “(A) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—

17 An eligible local educational agency that re-
18 ceives a subgrant under this section shall annu-
19 ally submit to the eligible State educational
20 agency a report that includes data to evaluate
21 the success of the program carried out by the
22 eligible local educational agency. Such reports
23 shall utilize the measures of outcomes described
24 in subsection (d).

1 “(B) STATE EDUCATIONAL AGENCIES.—An
2 eligible State educational agency that receives a
3 grant under this section shall annually submit
4 to the Secretary a report that includes data
5 from the reports submitted to the agency from
6 eligible local educational agencies pursuant to
7 clause (i).

8 “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 6
9 months after the date the Secretary receives reports
10 under subparagraph (A)(ii), the Secretary shall com-
11 pile the data in the reports and conduct a general
12 analysis of the success of the programs carried out
13 by the local educational agencies involved with
14 subgrant funds received under this section. The Sec-
15 retary shall prepare a report containing the compila-
16 tion and general analysis, and submit the report to
17 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
18 Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Edu-
19 cation and the Workforce of the House of Rep-
20 resentatives.

21 “(b) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

22 “(1) EVALUATION.—Not later than 12 months
23 after the end of the initial subgrant period for eligi-
24 ble local educational agencies under this section, the
25 Secretary shall conduct an in-depth evaluation of the

1 success of the programs carried out by the local edu-
 2 cational agencies with subgrant funds received under
 3 this section.

4 “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary
 5 shall prepare a report containing the in-depth eval-
 6 uation, and submit the report to the Committee on
 7 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
 8 ate and the Committee on Education and the Work-
 9 force of the House of Representatives.

10 **“SEC. 4136. TERMS AND COST OF THE GRANT.**

11 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
 12 this section such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year
 13 2017 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

14 (b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents in
 15 section 2 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 16 of 1965 is amended by inserting after the item relating
 17 to subpart 2 of part A of title IV the following:

“SUBPART 3—TRAINING TEACHERS AND SCHOOL PROFESSIONALS IN
 UNDERSTANDING MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS IN CHILDREN

“Sec. 4131. Program authorized.

“Sec. 4132. Grants.

“Sec. 4133. Subgrants.

“Sec. 4134. Evaluations and measures of outcome.

“Sec. 4135. Data collection component.

“Sec. 4136. Terms and cost of the grant.”.

