

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 610

AN ACT

To address behavioral health and well-being among health
care professionals.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Dr. Lorna Breen
3 Health Care Provider Protection Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DISSEMINATION OF BEST PRACTICES.**

5 The Secretary of Health and Human Services (re-
6 ferred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall identify and
7 disseminate evidence-based or evidence-informed best
8 practices for preventing suicide and improving mental
9 health and resiliency among health care professionals, and
10 for training health care professionals in appropriate strat-
11 egies to promote their mental health. Such best practices
12 shall include recommendations related to preventing sui-
13 cide and improving mental health and resiliency among
14 health care professionals.

15 **SEC. 3. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE ENCOUR-**
16 **AGING USE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUB-**
17 **STANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES BY**
18 **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
20 with relevant stakeholders, including medical professional
21 associations, shall establish a national evidence-based or
22 evidence-informed education and awareness initiative to
23 encourage health care professionals to seek support and
24 care for their mental health or substance use concerns,
25 to help such professionals identify risk factors associated
26 with suicide and mental health conditions, and to help

1 such professionals learn how best to respond to such risks,
 2 with the goal of preventing suicide, mental health condi-
 3 tions, and substance use disorders, and to address stigma
 4 associated with seeking mental health and substance use
 5 disorder services.

6 (b) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the
 7 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide
 8 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
 9 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and
 10 Commerce of the House of Representatives an update on
 11 the activities and outcomes of the initiative under sub-
 12 section (a), including a description of quantitative and
 13 qualitative metrics used to evaluate such activities and
 14 outcomes.

15 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
 16 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
 17 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024.

18 **SEC. 4. GRANTS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AMONG**
 19 **THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE.**

20 Subpart I of part E of title VII of the Public Health
 21 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended by add-
 22 ing at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 764. GRANTS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AMONG**
 2 **THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
 4 grants related to improving mental health and resiliency
 5 among health care professionals.

6 “(b) GRANTS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH
 7 AMONG HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
 9 grants to health care entities, including entities that
 10 provide health care services, such as hospitals, com-
 11 munity health centers, and rural health clinics, or to
 12 medical professional associations, to establish or en-
 13 hance evidence-based or evidence-informed programs
 14 dedicated to improving mental health and resiliency
 15 for health care professionals.

16 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiv-
 17 ing a grant under this subsection shall use amounts
 18 under the grant to implement a new program or en-
 19 hance an existing program to promote mental health
 20 among health care professionals, which may in-
 21 clude—

22 “(A) improving awareness among health
 23 care professionals about risk factors for, and
 24 signs of, suicide and mental health or substance
 25 use disorders, in accordance with evidence-
 26 based or evidence-informed practices;

1 “(B) establishing new, or enhancing exist-
2 ing, evidence-based or evidence-informed pro-
3 grams for preventing suicide and improving
4 mental health and resiliency among health care
5 professionals;

6 “(C) establishing new, or enhancing exist-
7 ing, peer-support programs among health care
8 professionals; or

9 “(D) providing mental health care, follow-
10 up services and care, or referral for such serv-
11 ices and care, as appropriate.

12 “(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
13 subsection, the Secretary shall give priority to eligi-
14 ble entities in health professional shortage areas or
15 rural areas.

16 “(c) TRAINING GRANTS.—The Secretary may estab-
17 lish a program to award grants to health professions
18 schools, academic health centers, State or local govern-
19 ments, Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, or other ap-
20 propriate public or private nonprofit entities (or consortia
21 of entities, including entities promoting multidisciplinary
22 approaches) to support the training of health care stu-
23 dents, residents, or health care professionals in evidence-
24 based or evidence-informed strategies to address mental

1 and substance use disorders and improve mental health
 2 and resiliency among health care professionals.

3 “(d) GRANT TERMS.—A grant awarded under sub-
 4 section (b) or (c) shall be for a period of 3 years.

5 “(e) APPLICATION SUBMISSION.—An entity seeking
 6 a grant under subsection (b) or (c) shall submit an appli-
 7 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and
 8 accompanied by such information as the Secretary may
 9 require.

10 “(f) REPORTING.—An entity awarded a grant under
 11 subsection (b) or (c) shall periodically submit to the Sec-
 12 retary a report evaluating the activities supported by the
 13 grant.

14 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
 15 carry out this section and section 5 of the Dr. Lorna
 16 Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, there are au-
 17 thorized to be appropriated \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal
 18 years 2022 through 2024.”.

19 **SEC. 5. REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH CARE PROFES-**
 20 **SIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND RESILIENCY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
 22 with relevant stakeholders, shall conduct a review and, not
 23 later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act,
 24 submit a report to Congress related to improving health

1 care professional mental health and resiliency and the out-
2 comes of programs authorized under this Act.

3 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—The review under subsection
4 (a) shall take into account—

5 (1) the prevalence and severity of mental health
6 conditions among health professionals, and factors
7 that contribute to those mental health conditions;

8 (2) barriers to seeking and accessing mental
9 health care for health care professionals, which may
10 include consideration of stigma and licensing con-
11 cerns, and actions taken by State licensing boards,
12 schools for health professionals, health care profes-
13 sional training associations, hospital associations, or
14 other organizations, as appropriate, to address such
15 barriers;

16 (3) the impact of the COVID–19 public health
17 emergency on the mental health of health care pro-
18 fessionals and lessons learned for future public
19 health emergencies;

20 (4) factors that promote mental health and re-
21 siliency among health care professionals, including
22 programs or strategies to strengthen mental health
23 and resiliency among health care professionals; and

1 (5) the efficacy of health professional training
2 programs that promote resiliency and improve men-
3 tal health.

4 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The review under sub-
5 section (a), as appropriate, shall identify best practices re-
6 lated to, and make recommendations to address—

7 (1) improving mental health and resiliency
8 among health care professionals;

9 (2) removing barriers to mental health care for
10 health care professionals; and

11 (3) strategies to promote resiliency among
12 health care professionals in health care settings.

13 **SEC. 6. GAO REPORT.**

14 Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment
15 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
16 shall report to Congress on the extent to which Federal
17 substance use disorder and mental health grant programs
18 address the prevalence and severity of mental health con-
19 ditions and substance use disorders among health profes-
20 sionals. Such report shall include an analysis of available
21 evidence and data related to such conditions and pro-

- 1 grams, and shall assess whether there are duplicative goals
- 2 and objectives among such grant programs.

Passed the Senate August 6 (legislative day, August 5), 2021.

Attest:

Secretary.

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