

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 256

To establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training pilot program to address human trafficking in the health care system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 1, 2017

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

A BILL

To establish the Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and Wellness Training pilot program to address human trafficking in the health care system.

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 “SOAR to Health and
5 Wellness Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

8 (1) HUMAN TRAFFICKING.—The term “human
9 trafficking” has the meaning given the term “severe

1 forms of trafficking in persons” as defined in section
2 103 of the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of
3 2000 (22 U.S.C. 7102).

4 (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
5 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

6 **SEC. 3. PILOT PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
8 pilot program to be known as “Stop, Observe, Ask, and
9 Respond to Health and Wellness Training” (or “SOAR
10 to Health and Wellness Training”) (referred to in this Act
11 as the “pilot program”), to provide training to health care
12 providers and other related providers, at all levels, on
13 human trafficking in accordance with the purpose de-
14 scribed in subsection (b).

15 (b) PURPOSE.—The pilot program established under
16 subsection (a) shall train health care providers and other
17 related providers to enable such providers to—

- 18 (1) identify potential human trafficking victims;
19 (2) implement proper protocols and procedures
20 for working with law enforcement to report, and fa-
21 cilitate communication with such victims, in accord-
22 ance with all applicable Federal, State, local, and
23 tribal requirements, including legal confidentiality
24 requirements for patients and health care providers;

1 (3) implement proper protocols and procedures
2 for referring such victims to appropriate social or
3 victims service agencies or organizations;

4 (4) provide such victims care that is—

5 (A) coordinated;

6 (B) victim centered;

7 (C) culturally relevant;

8 (D) comprehensive;

9 (E) evidence based;

10 (F) gender responsive;

11 (G) age appropriate, with a focus on care
12 for youth; and

13 (H) trauma informed; and

14 (5) consider the potential for integrating the
15 training described in paragraphs (1) through (4)
16 with training programs, in effect on the date of en-
17 actment of this Act, for victims of domestic violence,
18 dating violence, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse,
19 child neglect, child maltreatment, and child sexual
20 exploitation.

21 (c) FUNCTIONS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The functions of the pilot
23 program established under subsection (a) shall in-
24 clude the functions of the Stop, Observe, Ask, and
25 Respond to Health and Wellness Training program

1 that was operating on the day before the date of en-
2 actment of this Act and the authorized initiatives de-
3 scribed in paragraph (2).

4 (2) AUTHORIZED INITIATIVES.—The authorized
5 initiatives of the pilot program established under
6 subsection (a) shall include—

7 (A) engaging stakeholders, including vic-
8 tims of human trafficking and any Federal,
9 State, local, or tribal partners, to develop a
10 flexible training module—

11 (i) for achieving the purpose described
12 in subsection (b); and

13 (ii) that adapts to changing needs,
14 settings, health care providers, and other
15 related providers;

16 (B) making grants available to support
17 training in health care sites that represent di-
18 versity in—

19 (i) geography;

20 (ii) the demographics of the popu-
21 lation served;

22 (iii) the predominant types of human
23 trafficking cases; and

24 (iv) health care provider profiles;

1 (C) providing technical assistance for
 2 health education programs to implement nation-
 3 wide health care protocol, or develop continuing
 4 education training materials, that assist in
 5 achieving the purpose described in subsection
 6 (b);

7 (D) developing a strategy to incentivize the
 8 utilization of training materials developed under
 9 subparagraph (C) and the implementation of
 10 nationwide health care protocol described in
 11 such subparagraph, as the Secretary determines
 12 appropriate; and

13 (E) developing a reliable methodology for
 14 collecting data, and reporting such data, on the
 15 number of human trafficking victims identified
 16 and served in health care settings or other re-
 17 lated provider settings.

18 (d) TERMINATION.—The pilot program established
 19 under subsection (a) shall terminate on October 1, 2022.

20 **SEC. 4. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING REQUIRE-**
 21 **MENTS.**

22 (a) DATA COLLECTION.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—During each of fiscal years
 24 2019 through 2023, the Secretary shall collect data
 25 on each of the following:

1 (A) The total number of facilities that
2 were operating under the pilot program estab-
3 lished under section 3(a)—

- 4 (i) during the previous fiscal year; and
5 (ii) before the previous fiscal year.

6 (B) The total number of health care pro-
7 viders and other related providers trained
8 through such pilot program, during each of the
9 periods described in clauses (i) and (ii) of sub-
10 paragraph (A).

11 (2) INITIAL REPORT.—In addition to the data
12 required to be collected under paragraph (1), for
13 purposes of the initial report to be submitted under
14 subsection (b), the Secretary shall collect data on
15 the total number of facilities that were operating
16 under, and the total number of health care providers
17 and other related providers trained through, the
18 Stop, Observe, Ask, and Respond to Health and
19 Wellness Training program that was operating be-
20 fore the establishment of the pilot program under
21 section 3(a).

22 (b) REPORTING.—Not later than 90 days after the
23 first day of each of fiscal years 2019 through 2023, the
24 Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress a report
25 on the data collected under subsection (a).

1 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this Act \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through
4 2022.

