

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5324

To improve school safety and mental health services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2018

Mr. FERGUSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To improve school safety and mental health services, 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 “Supporting Teachers
5 and Safe Students Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND MENTAL HEALTH SUP-**
7 **PORT.**

8 (a) STATE USES OF FUNDS.—Section 2101(c)(4)(B)
9 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
10 (20 U.S.C. 6611(c)(4)(B)) is amended—

1 (1) by redesignating clause (xxi) as clause
2 (xxiv); and

3 (2) by inserting after clause (xx) the following:

4 “(xxi) Supporting efforts to increase
5 the professional development that is evi-
6 dence-based (to the extent the State, in
7 consultation with local educational agencies
8 in the State, determines that such evidence
9 is reasonably available) for teachers, prin-
10 cipals, school leaders, and other school per-
11 sonnel in mental health awareness, violence
12 prevention, crisis response, de-escalation
13 and anger management techniques, posi-
14 tive behavioral interventions and supports,
15 bullying and harassment prevention, and
16 other similar programs designed to reduce
17 and prevent school violence.

18 “(xxii) Assisting local educational
19 agencies in—

20 “(I) developing and implementing
21 professional development that is evi-
22 dence-based (to the extent the State,
23 in consultation with local educational
24 agencies in the State, determines that
25 such evidence is reasonably available)

on violence prevention programs and
emergency response and notification
systems; and

“(II) improving school climate.

“(xxiii) Developing agreements between local educational agencies, law enforcement agencies, and health agencies, including nonprofit, public, and private mental health agencies and institutions, to improve coordination of services and to identify, respond to, and prevent threats to the safety of students and school personnel.”.

(b) LOCAL USES OF FUNDS.—Section 2103(b)(3) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6613(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (I)—

(A) in clause (ii), by inserting “, including mental health services,” after “services”; and

(B) in clause (iii), by striking “and public or private mental health organizations” and inserting “, public or private mental health organizations, and local law enforcement agencies, to improve the coordination of services and to

1 identify, respond to, and prevent threats to the
2 safety of students and school personnel”;

3 (2) in subparagraph (O), by striking “and” at
4 the end;

5 (3) by redesignating subparagraph (P) as sub-
6 paragraph (R); and

7 (4) by inserting after subparagraph (O) the fol-
8 lowing:

9 “(P) reducing the ratio of students to
10 counselors to improve the ability of schools to
11 address the needs of students through the re-
12 cruiting and hiring of school-based mental
13 health services providers, as defined in section
14 4102(6);

15 “(Q) developing and implementing profes-
16 sional development that is evidence-based (to
17 the extent the State, in consultation with local
18 educational agencies in the State, determines
19 that such evidence is reasonably available) for
20 teachers, specialized instructional support per-
21 sonnel, principals, school leaders, and other
22 school personnel in violence prevention, mental
23 health awareness, threat de-escalation methods,
24 and positive behavioral interventions and sup-
25 ports, and supporting bullying and harassment

1 prevention programs, and other similar pro-
2 grams designed to reduce and prevent school vi-
3 olence and improve the school climate for all
4 students; and”.

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