

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to promote comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BENNET) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to promote comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans, 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 “Enhancing Mental
5 Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning
6 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. ENCOURAGING CAMPUS COMPREHENSIVE MENTAL**
2 **HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION PLANS.**

3 Part L of title VIII of the Higher Education Act of
4 1965 (20 U.S.C. 11611 et seq.) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating section 826 as section 827;

6 and

7 (2) by inserting after section 825 the following
8 new section:

9 **“SEC. 826. ENCOURAGING CAMPUS COMPREHENSIVE MEN-**
10 **TAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION**
11 **PLANS.**

12 **“(a) MODEL PLANS.—**

13 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**Beginning not later than 1
14 year after the date of enactment of this section, the
15 Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of
16 Health and Human Services (acting through the Ad-
17 ministrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental
18 Health Services Administration) shall develop and
19 disseminate 1 or more evidence-based model mental
20 health and suicide prevention action plans to serve
21 as models for institutions of higher education that
22 want to implement such plans. The Secretary shall
23 ensure that those model plans are aligned with the
24 evidence-based suicide prevention programs of the
25 Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Ad-
26 ministration.

1 “(2) UPDATES.—Not less frequently than once
2 every 5 years, the Secretary shall update the model
3 plans described in paragraph (1).

4 “(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—After developing and
5 disseminating the model plans described in subsection (a),
6 the Secretary, in coordination with the Secretary of
7 Health and Human Services (acting through the Adminis-
8 trator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services
9 Administration), shall provide technical assistance to insti-
10 tutions of higher education that want to implement com-
11 prehensive mental health and suicide prevention plans
12 modeled after the model plans described in subsection (a).
13 In providing such technical assistance, the Secretary—

14 “(1) shall take into consideration existing State
15 efforts to address mental health and suicide preven-
16 tion at institutions of higher education; and

17 “(2) may collaborate with nonprofit organiza-
18 tions, community-based organizations, student orga-
19 nizations, or other experts and stakeholders in the
20 field of mental health and suicide prevention at in-
21 stitutions of higher education.

22 “(c) REPORTS.—The Secretary, or a designee of the
23 Secretary, shall submit a report to the Committee on
24 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, the
25 Energy and Commerce Committee of the House of Rep-

1 representatives, and the Education and Workforce Committee
2 of the House of Representatives on the activities of the
3 Secretary carried out under this section—

4 “(1) not later than 1 year after the developing
5 the first model plan described in subsection (a)(1);
6 and

7 “(2) not later than 1 year after each update de-
8 scribed in subsection (a)(2).

9 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
10 tion shall be construed as creating new legal requirements
11 for institutions of higher education.”.