

106<sup>TH</sup> CONGRESS  
2<sup>D</sup> SESSION

# H. R. 4439

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program for the prevention of suicide among Latina adolescents.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 11, 2000

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GONZALEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. HILL of Indiana, Mr. LARSON, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MOORE, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BACA, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. REYES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Ms. CARSON, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. UNDERWOOD, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mr. HORN, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. BONO, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. DREIER) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program for the prevention of suicide among Latina adolescents.

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 “Latina Adolescent Sui-  
5 cide Prevention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds that:

3 (1) Latina girls now represent the largest mi-  
4 nority group of girls in the country and are expected  
5 to remain so for the next fifty years as the size of  
6 the Hispanic (Latino) population in this country  
7 continues to increase.

8 (2) Recent data contained in “The State of  
9 Hispanic Girls” indicate that one in three Latina  
10 adolescents has seriously considered suicide—the  
11 highest rate of any racial or ethnic group in the  
12 country. This rate is one and a half times the rate  
13 of their African-American or non-Hispanic white  
14 counterparts.

15 (3) Even though national suicide rates among  
16 high school girls have decreased in recent years,  
17 Latina adolescents remain most likely to seriously  
18 consider, make a concrete plan and attempt suicide.

19 (4) Fewer treatment and prevention services  
20 reach them than any other racial or ethnic group in  
21 the nation.

22 (5) This lack of adequate resources and support  
23 services for Latina adolescents and their families  
24 through community and school-based programs only  
25 exacerbates the severity of this crisis.

1           (6) Cultural differences and acculturation  
2 issues and conflicts must be considered and ad-  
3 dressed as major factors influencing the suicide  
4 rates among Latina adolescents.

5           (7) This suicide crisis is further compounded by  
6 the lack of bi-lingual staff trained to deliver cul-  
7 turally competent services and the scarcity of spe-  
8 cific programs that focus on bolstering self-esteem  
9 and self-confidence within this population group.

10          (8) Innovative and enhanced suicide prevention  
11 outreach services by community-based organizations  
12 (CBOs) and mental health clinics are the most effec-  
13 tive way to deal with this crisis and can be further  
14 strengthened when CBOs initiate and operate  
15 school-based programs in cooperation with local  
16 school systems and provide school personnel with the  
17 basic training to identify depression and other be-  
18 haviors which, left undiagnosed and untreated, may  
19 lead to suicide.

20          (9) Increased Federal financial support directly  
21 to local programs and services providing early inter-  
22 vention services to ameliorate identified mental  
23 health problems in Latina adolescents should be con-  
24 sidered a major funding priority.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM FOR PREVENTION**  
2 **OF LATINA ADOLESCENT SUICIDES.**

3 Title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
4 290aa et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 520B  
5 the following section:

6 **“SEC. 520C. PREVENTION OF LATINA ADOLESCENT SUI-**  
7 **CIDES.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make  
9 awards of grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts to  
10 public and nonprofit private entities for the purpose of re-  
11 ducing suicide attempts and deaths among Latina adoles-  
12 cents.

13 “(b) COLLABORATION.— The Secretary shall ensure  
14 that the program under this section is developed in col-  
15 laboration with the relevant institutes at the National In-  
16 stitutes of Health, the Health Resources and Services Ad-  
17 ministration, the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-  
18 tion, and the Administration on Children and Families.

19 “(c) PREFERENCE.—In making awards under sub-  
20 section (a), the Secretary shall give preference to appli-  
21 cants that—

22 “(1) demonstrate a strong linkage with schools  
23 and are actually supported by and operated within  
24 a school facility or associated setting; and

25 “(2) involve direct services to Latina adoles-  
26 cents.

1       “(d) REQUIREMENTS.—A condition for the receipt of  
2 an award under subsection (a) is that the applicant in-  
3 volved demonstrate that the project to be carried out with  
4 the award will—

5           “(1) provide for the timely assessment and  
6 treatment of Latina adolescents at risk for suicide;

7           “(2) use evidenced based strategies;

8           “(3) be based on exemplary practices that are  
9 adapted to the unique characteristics and needs of  
10 the local community;

11          “(4) be integrated into the existing health care  
12 system in the community including primary health  
13 care, mental health services, and substance abuse  
14 services as appropriate;

15          “(5) be integrated into other systems in the  
16 community to address the needs of Latina adoles-  
17 cents including the educational system, juvenile jus-  
18 tice, and recreation;

19          “(6) provide support services to the families  
20 and friends of those who plan, attempt, or actually  
21 commit suicide;

22          “(7) provide culturally, linguistically and devel-  
23 opmentally appropriate services;

24          “(8) agree to outcomes evaluation to determine  
25 the success of the program and the possibility of

1 replication to other adolescent girls at risk of sui-  
2 cide;

3 “(9) provide or ensure referral for mental  
4 health and substance abuse services as needed; and

5 “(10) ensure that staff used in the program are  
6 trained in suicide prevention, are capable of pro-  
7 viding culturally and linguistically appropriate serv-  
8 ices and that professionals involved in the system of  
9 care are given training in identifying persons at risk  
10 of suicide.

11 “(e) COORDINATION.—A condition for the receipt of  
12 an award under subsection (a) is that the applicant in-  
13 volved demonstrate that—

14 “(1) the application has the support of the local  
15 communities and the approval of the political sub-  
16 division to be served by the project; and

17 “(2) the applicant has discussed the application  
18 with State mental health officials.

19 “(f) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—With respect to the  
20 costs to be incurred by an applicant in carrying out a  
21 project under subsection (a), the Secretary may require  
22 as a condition of the receipt of the award that the appli-  
23 cant make available (directly or through donations from  
24 public or private entities) non-Federal contributions to-  
25 ward such costs in an amount that is not less than 25

1 percent of such costs (\$1 for each \$3 of Federal funds  
2 provided in the award).

3 “(g) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall ensure that  
4 entities receiving awards under subsection (a) submit an  
5 evaluation of the project that includes an evaluation of—

6 “(1) the efficacy of project strategies; and

7 “(2) short, intermediate, and long-term out-  
8 comes, including the overall impact of the project on  
9 the self-esteem of Latina adolescents and their emo-  
10 tional development and ability to deal in a positive  
11 and confident manner with their families, social en-  
12 vironment, and peers.

13 “(h) DISSEMINATION AND EDUCATION.—The Sec-  
14 retary shall ensure that the findings from the program  
15 under this section are disseminated to State and local gov-  
16 ernmental agencies and private providers of mental health  
17 and substance abuse services.

18 “(i) DURATION OF PROJECTS.—With respect to an  
19 award under subsection (a), the period during which pay-  
20 ments under such award are made may not exceed 5 years.

21 “(j) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section, the  
22 term ‘adolescent’ means an individual between the ages  
23 of 11 and 17 (inclusive).

24 “(k) FUNDING.—

1           “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2           For the purpose of carrying out this section, there  
3           are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for  
4           fiscal year 2001, and such sums as may be nec-  
5           essary for each of the fiscal years 2002 and 2003.

6           “(2) ALLOCATION FOR PROGRAM MANAGE-  
7           MENT.—Of the amount appropriated under para-  
8           graph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary may re-  
9           serve not more than 1 percent for administering the  
10          program under this section.”.

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