

113TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 153

To amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 24 (legislative day, JANUARY 3), 2013

Mr. BEGICH (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BENNET, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. REED, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. TESTER, and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend section 520J of the Public Health Service Act to authorize grants for mental health first aid training programs.

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 “Mental Health First
5 Aid Act of 2013”.

6 **SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING GRANTS.**

7 Section 520J of the Public Health Service Act (42
8 U.S.C. 290bb–41) is amended to read as follows:

1 **“SEC. 520J. MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING GRANTS.**

2 “(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary, acting through the
3 Administrator, shall award grants to States, political sub-
4 divisions of States, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and
5 nonprofit private entities to initiate and sustain mental
6 health first aid training programs.

7 “(b) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for funding
9 under subsection (a), a mental health first aid train-
10 ing program shall—

11 “(A) be designed to train individuals in the
12 categories listed in paragraph (2) to accomplish
13 the objectives described in paragraph (3);

14 “(B) ensure that training is conducted by
15 trainers that are properly licensed and
16 credentialed by nonprofit entities as designated
17 by the Secretary; and

18 “(C) include—

19 “(i) at a minimum—

20 “(I) a core live training course
21 for individuals in the categories listed
22 in paragraph (2) on the skills, re-
23 sources, and knowledge to assist indi-
24 viduals in crisis to connect with ap-
25 propriate local mental health care
26 services;

1 “(II) training on mental health
 2 resources, including the location of
 3 community mental health centers de-
 4 scribed in section 1913(c), in the
 5 State and local community; and

6 “(III) training on action plans
 7 and protocols for referral to such re-
 8 sources; and

9 “(ii) where feasible, continuing edu-
 10 cation and updated training for individuals
 11 in the categories determined under para-
 12 graph (2).

13 “(2) CATEGORIES OF INDIVIDUALS TO BE
 14 TRAINED.—The categories of individuals to be
 15 trained shall be determined by the Secretary.

16 “(3) OBJECTIVES OF TRAINING.—To be eligible
 17 for funding under subsection (a), a mental health
 18 first aid training program shall be designed to train
 19 individuals in the categories listed in paragraph (2)
 20 to accomplish each of the following objectives (as ap-
 21 propriate for the individuals to be trained, taking
 22 into consideration their age):

23 “(A) Safe de-escalation of crisis situations.

24 “(B) Recognition of the signs and symp-
 25 toms of mental illness, including such common

1 psychiatric conditions as schizophrenia, bipolar
2 disorder, major clinical depression, and anxiety
3 disorders.

4 “(C) Timely referral to mental health serv-
5 ices in the early stages of developing mental
6 disorders in order to—

7 “(i) avoid more costly subsequent be-
8 havioral health care; and

9 “(ii) enhance the effectiveness of men-
10 tal health services.

11 “(c) DISTRIBUTION OF AWARDS.—In awarding
12 grants under this section, the Secretary shall—

13 “(1) ensure that grants are equitably distrib-
14 uted among the geographical regions of the United
15 States; and

16 “(2) pay particular attention to the mental
17 health training needs of populations and target audi-
18 ences residing in rural areas.

19 “(d) APPLICATION.—A State, political subdivision of
20 a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or nonprofit pri-
21 vate entity that desires a grant under this section shall
22 submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in
23 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
24 retary may require, including a plan for the rigorous eval-

1 uation of activities that are carried out with funds received
2 under such grant.

3 “(e) EVALUATION.—A State, political subdivision of
4 a State, Indian tribe, tribal organization, or nonprofit pri-
5 vate entity that receives a grant under this section shall
6 prepare and submit an evaluation to the Secretary at such
7 time, in such manner, and containing such information as
8 the Secretary may reasonably require, including an evalua-
9 tion of activities carried out with funds received under
10 such grant and a process and outcome evaluation.

11 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
12 carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-
13 priated \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2014 and such sums
14 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2015 and
15 2016.”.

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