

116TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4025

To establish the Mental Health in Schools Excellence Program to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 25, 2019

Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself and Ms. WILD) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

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## A BILL

To establish the Mental Health in Schools Excellence Program to increase the recruitment and retention of school-based mental health services providers, 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 “Mental Health in  
5 Schools Excellence Program Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROGRAM TO ESTABLISH PUBLIC-PRIVATE CON-**  
2 **TRIBUTIONS TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE**  
3 **WORKFORCE OF SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL**  
4 **HEALTH SERVICE PROVIDERS.**

5 (a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall  
6 carry out a program under which eligible graduate institu-  
7 tions may enter into an agreement with the Secretary to  
8 cover a portion of the cost of attendance of a participating  
9 student, which contributions shall be matched by equiva-  
10 lent contributions towards such cost of attendance by the  
11 Secretary.

12 (b) DESIGNATION OF PROGRAM.—The program  
13 under this section shall be known as the “Mental Health  
14 in Schools Excellence Program”.

15 (c) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary shall enter into an  
16 agreement with each eligible graduate institution seeking  
17 to participate in the program under this section. Each  
18 agreement shall specify the following:

19 (1) The manner (whether by direct grant, schol-  
20 arship, or otherwise) in which the eligible graduate  
21 institution will contribute to the cost of attendance  
22 of a participating student.

23 (2) The maximum amount of the contribution  
24 to be made by the eligible graduate institution with  
25 respect to any particular participating student in  
26 any given academic year.

1           (3) The maximum number of individuals for  
2 whom the eligible graduate institution will make con-  
3 tributions in any given academic year.

4           (4) Such other matters as the Secretary and  
5 the eligible graduate institution determine appro-  
6 priate.

7           (d) OUTREACH.—The Secretary shall—

8           (1) make publicly available and periodically up-  
9 date on the internet website of the Department of  
10 Education a list of the eligible graduate institutions  
11 participating in the program under this section that  
12 shall specify, for each such graduate institution, ap-  
13 propriate information on the agreement between the  
14 Secretary and such college or university under sub-  
15 section (c); and

16           (2) conduct outreach to students who are eligi-  
17 ble for Federal Pell Grants to inform such students  
18 of the program under this section.

19           (e) PARTICIPATING STUDENTS.—

20           (1) REPAYMENT.—A participating student that  
21 accepts a contribution under this section shall reim-  
22 burse the Department of Education and the eligible  
23 graduate school for all contributions made by such  
24 entities to such student as if such contributions were

1 a loan under part D of title IV of the Higher Edu-  
2 cation Act (20 U.S.C. 1087a) if the student—

3 (A) withdraws or is removed from the  
4 graduate degree program for which the student  
5 received such contributions; or

6 (B) except as provided in paragraph (2)  
7 and subject to paragraph (3), graduates, but is  
8 not employed as a school-based mental health  
9 services provider in the 5-year period after  
10 graduation.

11 (2) EXCEPTION.—For purposes of calculating  
12 the 5-year period after graduation under paragraph  
13 (1)(C), the Secretary may not count any period of  
14 less than 2 years in which the participating stu-  
15 dent—

16 (A) takes leave under the Family and Med-  
17 ical Leave Act of 1993 (29 U.S.C. 2601 et  
18 seq.);

19 (B) serves under active duty in the Armed  
20 Forces;

21 (C) takes maternity or paternity leave; or

22 (D) any combination of subparagraphs (A)  
23 through (C).

24 (3) RATABLE REDUCTION.—A participating  
25 student described in paragraph (1)(C) who was em-

1       employed as a school-based mental health services pro-  
2       vider for less than 5 years during the 5-year period  
3       after graduation shall reimburse the Department of  
4       Education and the eligible graduate school the  
5       amount that bears the same proportion to all con-  
6       tributions made by such entities as the amount of  
7       time such participating student was employed as a  
8       school-based mental health services provider during  
9       such 5-year period bears to such 5-year period.

10       (f) MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary may  
11       provide a contribution of up to 50 percent of the cost of  
12       attendance of a participating student if the eligible grad-  
13       uate institution at which such student is enrolled enters  
14       into an agreement under subsection (c) with the Secretary  
15       to match such contribution.

16       **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

17       In this Act:

18               (1) COST OF ATTENDANCE.—The term “cost of  
19       attendance” has the meaning given the term in sec-  
20       tion 472 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20  
21       U.S.C. 1087ll).

22               (2) ELIGIBLE GRADUATE INSTITUTION.—The  
23       term “eligible graduate institution” means an insti-  
24       tution of higher education in that offers a program  
25       of study that leads to a graduate degree—

1 (A) in school psychology that is accredited  
2 or approved by the National Association of  
3 School Psychologists' Program Accreditation  
4 Board or the Commission on Accreditation of  
5 the American Psychological Association and  
6 that prepares students in such program for the  
7 State licensing or certification examination in  
8 school psychology at the specialist level;

9 (B) in an accredited school counseling pro-  
10 gram that prepares students in such program  
11 for the State licensing or certification examina-  
12 tion in school counseling;

13 (C) in school social work that is accredited  
14 by the Council on Social Work Education and  
15 that prepares students in such program for the  
16 State licensing or certification examination in  
17 school social work;

18 (D) in another school-based mental health  
19 field that prepares students in such program  
20 for the State licensing or certification examina-  
21 tion in such field, if applicable; or

22 (E) in any combination of study described  
23 in subparagraphs (A) through (D).

24 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The  
25 term “institution of higher education” has the

1 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-  
2 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001), but ex-  
3 cludes any institution of higher education described  
4 in section 102(a)(1)(C) of such Act.

5 (4) PARTICIPATING STUDENT.—The term “par-  
6 ticipating student” means an individual who is en-  
7 rolled in a graduate degree in a school-based mental  
8 health field from a participating eligible graduate in-  
9 stitution.

10 (5) SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH FIELD.—  
11 The term “school-based mental health field” means  
12 each of the following fields:

13 (A) School counseling.

14 (B) School social work.

15 (C) School psychology.

16 (D) Any other field of study that leads to  
17 employment as a school-based mental health  
18 services provider, as determined by the Sec-  
19 retary.

20 (6) SCHOOL-BASED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES  
21 PROVIDER.—The term “school-based mental health  
22 services provider” has the meaning given the term in  
23 section 4102 of the Elementary and Secondary Edu-  
24 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7112).

1           (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of Education.

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