

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7159

To amend the Community Mental Health Service Block Grant to authorize a set-aside for crisis care services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 11, 2020

Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself and Ms. WILD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Community Mental Health Service Block Grant to authorize a set-aside for crisis care 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 “Crisis Care Improve-
5 ment and Suicide Prevention Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

8 (1) Fragmentation of mental health services
9 and limited access to crisis services complicates and
10 elongates mental health patient stays in emergency

1 departments and under the custody of law enforce-
2 ment.

3 (2) Emergency departments and the criminal
4 justice system do not have the capacity with existing
5 resources and health care professional shortages to
6 address the needs of the rapidly growing number of
7 individuals with mental health conditions, increasing
8 the risk of adverse patient outcomes.

9 (3) In 2017, 150,000 individuals in the United
10 States died from alcohol and drug-induced fatalities
11 and suicides. Nearly $\frac{1}{3}$, or more than 47,000 were
12 suicides.

13 (4) From 2016 to 2018, more than $\frac{1}{4}$ of hos-
14 pital emergency department “frequent users” in Illi-
15 nois were patients with presenting or underlying
16 mental health conditions, underscoring the need for
17 additional funding, continued access to real-time
18 care and connection to long-term treatment options.

19 (5) Fifteen percent of men and 30 percent of
20 women in custody of county jails have severe mental
21 illnesses.

22 (6) Use of appropriate crisis facilities and inter-
23 ventions in Maricopa County, Arizona, have saved
24 emergency departments an estimated \$37,000,000 in

1 2016 and saved the equivalent of 37 police officer
2 full-time equivalent salaries.

3 (b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
4 gress that—

5 (1) for patients with mental health issues, co-
6 ordination of physical and mental health services
7 and cooperation with law enforcement are essential
8 to ensure timely, appropriate care; and

9 (2) crisis care networks established at State
10 and local levels have saved resources and shown im-
11 proved outcomes for patients in crisis.

12 **SEC. 3. EVIDENCE-BASED CRISIS CARE PROGRAMS.**

13 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1912(b)(1) of the Public
14 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–1(b)(1))—

15 (1) in subparagraph (A)—

16 (A) by redesignating clauses (vi) and (vii)
17 as clauses (vii) and (viii), respectively; and

18 (B) by inserting after clause (v), the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(vi) include a description of how the
21 State supports evidenced-based programs
22 that address the crisis care needs of indi-
23 viduals with serious mental disorders, and
24 children with serious mental and emotional
25 disturbances, that include at least one of

1 the core components specified in subpara-
2 graph (F);” and

3 (2) by adding at the end the following:

4 “(F) CORE COMPONENTS FOR CRISIS CARE
5 SERVICES.—The core components of a program
6 referred to in subparagraph (A)(vi) include the
7 following:

8 “(i) Crisis call centers.

9 “(ii) 24/7 mobile crisis services.

10 “(iii) Crisis stabilization programs of-
11 fering acute care or sub-acute care in a
12 hospital or appropriately licensed facility,
13 with referrals to inpatient or outpatient
14 care, as determined by the Assistant Sec-
15 retary for Mental Health and Substance
16 Use.”.

17 (b) SET-ASIDE FOR EVIDENCE-BASED CRISIS CARE
18 SERVICES.—Section 1920 of the Public Health Service
19 Act (42 U.S.C. 300x–9) is amended by adding at the end
20 the following:

21 “(d) CRISIS CARE.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
23 graph (3), a State shall expend at least 5 percent of
24 the allotment of the State pursuant to a funding
25 agreement under section 1911 for each fiscal year to

1 support programs described in section
2 1912(b)(1)(A)(vi).

3 “(2) STATE FLEXIBILITY.—In lieu of expending
4 5 percent of the State’s allotment for a fiscal year
5 as required by paragraph (1), a State may elect to
6 expend not less than 10 percent of such amount by
7 the end of two consecutive fiscal years.

8 “(3) FUNDING CONTINGENCY.—Paragraph (1)
9 shall not apply with respect to a fiscal year unless
10 the amount made available to carry out this section
11 for that fiscal year exceeds the amount appropriated
12 to carry out this section for fiscal year 2020 by at
13 least \$35,000,000.”.

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