116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1281

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for institutions of higher education to prevent substance misuse, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES
MAY 2, 2019

Mr. Tester (for himself, Mrs. Capito, and Ms. Hassan) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide grants for institutions of higher education to prevent substance misuse, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Healthier Students for Stronger Campuses Act”.

SEC. 2. SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT

GRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Section 120(e) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011i(e)) is amended to read as follows:

“(e) SUBSTANCE MISUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT GRANTS FOR INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

“(1) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this grant program are to—

“(A) address the effect of substance misuse on students enrolled in higher education;

“(B) prevent students enrolled in higher education from developing a substance use disorder;

“(C) educate faculty and other staff about the warning signs of substance use disorders and how to help students who are affected by such disorders; and

“(D) identify and promote evidence-based and promising practices for helping to prevent and address substance use disorders among students enrolled in higher education.

“(2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term ‘evidence-based’, when used with respect to a pro-
program or practice, means a program or practice that—

“(i) is demonstrated to be effective when implemented with fidelity;

“(ii) is based on a clearly articulated and empirically supported theory;

“(iii) has measurable outcomes relevant to substance use disorder prevention, treatment, and recovery, including a detailed description of the outcomes produced in a particular population;

“(iv) has been scientifically tested and proven effective through randomized control studies or comparison group studies; and

“(v) has the ability to replicate and scale.

“(B) PROMISING.—The term ‘promising’, when used with respect to a program or practice, means a program or practice that—

“(i) is demonstrated to be effective based on positive outcomes relevant to substance use disorder prevention or treatment from one or more objective, independent, and scientifically valid evalua-
tions, as documented in writing to the Sec-
retaries; and

“(ii) will be evaluated through a well-
designed and rigorous study, as described
in subparagraph (A)(iv).

“(C) SECRETARIES.—The term ‘Secre-
taries’ means the Secretary of Education and
the Secretary of Health and Human Services
(acting through the Assistant Secretary for
Mental Health and Substance Use).

“(D) SUBSTANCE USE.—The term ‘sub-
stance use’ may include the misuse or abuse of
alcohol, prescription opioids, methamphetamine,
or other legal or illegal substances.

“(3) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretaries, in
accordance with the interagency agreement de-
scribed in paragraph (4), may award, on a com-
petitive basis, grants to institutions of higher
education, or consortia of institutions of higher
education, with regional high incidences of sub-
stance use disorders, overdoses, and deaths, in
order to prevent and address the effects of sub-
stance use on the campuses of the institutions
of higher education.
“(B) DURATION.—A grant under this subsection shall be for a period of not more than 5 years, and may be renewed for an additional 2 years if satisfactory progress is made in preventing and reducing substance use disorders as described in paragraph (5)(A).

“(C) RESERVATION FOR RURAL AREAS.—

The Secretaries shall ensure that at least 25 percent of funds are awarded to rural-serving institutions of higher education, as defined in section 861.

“(4) INTERAGENCY AGREEMENT.—The Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant Secretary of Mental Health and Substance Use, shall jointly administer the program under this subsection in accordance with such terms as the Secretaries set forth in an interagency agreement. Such interagency agreement shall include a description of the respective roles and responsibilities of the Secretaries (both jointly and separately).

“(5) APPLICATION.—An institution of higher education, or consortium of institutions of higher education, desiring a grant under paragraph (3)(A) shall submit an application at such time and in such
manner as the Secretaries may require. Such application shall include—

“(A) a description of the impact of substance use disorders on students enrolled in each participating institution of higher education, including—

“(i) the number of overdoses in the past year;

“(ii) the number of deaths related to substance use in the past year;

“(iii) the degree to which students have substance use disorders, if such information is available; and

“(iv) other indicators or information related to the most prevalent substance use in the region that such institution feels is necessary to fully describe the impact of the substance use on students;

“(B) an assurance that the institution of higher education, or consortia of institutions, has convened a taskforce to address the impact of the most prevalent substance use in the region on students, which shall include—

“(i) faculty and other staff;
“(ii) current and former students, including students impacted by substance use disorders;

“(iii) staff from campus health centers, if the institution operates campus health centers;

“(iv) representatives from campus disability support services offices and student access support offices, if such offices exist at the institution;

“(v) representatives from fraternities and sororities, if such organizations exist at the institution;

“(vi) area local educational agencies;


“(viii) local hospitals, physicians, or other medical professionals;

“(ix) local or campus law enforcement entities; and
“(x) other stakeholders that the institution or consortium chooses to include;

“(C) a plan developed by the taskforce described in subparagraph (B) to use funds in accordance with paragraph (6) to address the impact of substance use on students enrolled in higher education, which shall include a description of—

“(i) the goals of the project, which shall include decreasing the number of students with substance use disorders; and

“(ii) how the institution or consortium will—

“(I) use funds in accordance with paragraph (6), including the evidence base for proposed activities;

“(II) coordinate funds with other programs designed to prevent and address substance use disorders among students; and

“(III) sustain grant activities beyond the grant period, including methods for continuous improvement of grant activities; and
“(D) an assurance that the institution or consortium will continue to convene the taskforce described in subparagraph (B) periodically to improve institutional programming and policy related to substance use disorders.

“(6) USES OF FUNDS.—

“(A) REQUIRED ACTIVITIES.—An institution of higher education, or consortium of institutions of higher education, receiving a grant under paragraph (3) shall use grant funds for evidence-based or promising interventions designed to address and prevent substance use disorders among students enrolled in higher education.

“(B) ALLOWABLE ACTIVITIES.—The activities described in subparagraph (A) may include—

“(i) education efforts to provide students enrolled in higher education with information on the impact of substance use disorders;

“(ii) recovery services for such students with substance use disorders, which may include recovery dorms that offer
sober living along with substance use treatment services;

“(iii) treatment or referrals to treatment for such students with substance use disorders;

“(iv) institution-wide prevention efforts, which may include public service announcements;

“(v) efforts to identify programs targeting populations of students, such as student athletes, fraternity members, sorority members, and others enrolled in higher education, with an increased risk for substance use disorders;

“(vi) mental or behavioral health counseling or academic counseling services for students enrolled in higher education who are affected by substance use disorders; and

“(vii) other programs designed to address or prevent substance use disorders among students enrolled in higher education.

“(7) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds made available under this subsection shall be used to
supplement and not supplant other Federal, State, and local funds available to the institution to carry out the activities described in paragraph (6).

“(8) Matching requirement.—An institution of higher education, or consortium of institutions of higher education, receiving a grant under paragraph (3) shall provide, from non-Federal sources, not less than 20 percent of matching funds, which may be in cash or in-kind contributions.

“(9) National activities.—

“(A) In general.—The Secretaries may reserve not more than 5 percent of funds made available under paragraph (10) to—

“(i) conduct a rigorous, independent evaluation of each grant funded under this Act, particularly its impact on the indicators described in paragraph (5)(A);

“(ii) disseminate and promote the utilization of evidence-based or promising practices regarding substance use disorder prevention and treatment for students enrolled in higher education; and

“(iii) provide technical assistance to institutions of higher education or con-
sortia receiving a grant under paragraph (3).

“(B) ROLE FOR IES DIRECTOR.—The Director of the Institute of Education Sciences shall carry out the roles and responsibilities under this paragraph that are assigned to the Secretary of Education in accordance with the interagency agreement under paragraph (4).

“(10) AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $100,000,000 for fiscal year 2020 and each of the 5 succeeding fiscal years.”.