

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1667

AN ACT

To address behavioral health and well-being among health
care professionals.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Dr. Lorna Breen
3 Health Care Provider Protection Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. DISSEMINATION OF BEST PRACTICES.**

5 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enact-
6 ment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human
7 Services (referred to in this Act as the “Secretary”) shall
8 identify and disseminate evidence-based or evidence-in-
9 formed best practices for preventing suicide and improving
10 mental health and resiliency among health care profes-
11 sionals, and for training health care professionals in ap-
12 propriate strategies to promote their mental health. Such
13 best practices shall include recommendations related to
14 preventing suicide and improving mental health and resil-
15 iency among health care professionals.

16 **SEC. 3. EDUCATION AND AWARENESS INITIATIVE ENCOUR-**
17 **AGING USE OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUB-**
18 **STANCE USE DISORDER SERVICES BY**
19 **HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation
21 with relevant stakeholders, including medical professional
22 associations, shall establish a national evidence-based or
23 evidence-informed education and awareness initiative—

24 (1) to encourage health care professionals to
25 seek support and care for their mental health or
26 substance use concerns, to help such professionals

1 identify risk factors associated with suicide and
2 mental health conditions, and to help such profes-
3 sionals learn how best to respond to such risks, with
4 the goal of preventing suicide, mental health condi-
5 tions, and substance use disorders; and

6 (2) to address stigma associated with seeking
7 mental health and substance use disorder services.

8 (b) REPORTING.—Not later than 2 years after the
9 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide
10 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pen-
11 sions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and
12 Commerce of the House of Representatives an update on
13 the activities and outcomes of the initiative under sub-
14 section (a), including a description of quantitative and
15 qualitative metrics used to evaluate such activities and
16 outcomes.

17 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
18 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
19 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2024.

20 **SEC. 4. PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH AMONG**
21 **THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORKFORCE.**

22 Subpart I of part E of title VII of the Public Health
23 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended by add-
24 ing at the end the following:

1 **“SEC. 764. PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH**
2 **AMONG THE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL WORK-**
3 **FORCE.**

4 “(a) PROGRAMS TO PROMOTE MENTAL HEALTH
5 AMONG HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
7 grants or contracts to health care entities, including
8 entities that provide health care services, such as
9 hospitals, community health centers, and rural
10 health clinics, or to medical professional associa-
11 tions, to establish or enhance evidence-based or evi-
12 dence-informed programs dedicated to improving
13 mental health and resiliency for health care profes-
14 sionals.

15 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiv-
16 ing a grant or contract under this subsection shall
17 use funds received through the grant or contract to
18 implement a new program or enhance an existing
19 program to promote mental health among health
20 care professionals, which may include—

21 “(A) improving awareness among health
22 care professionals about risk factors for, and
23 signs of, suicide and mental health or substance
24 use disorders, in accordance with evidence-
25 based or evidence-informed practices;

1 “(B) establishing new, or enhancing exist-
2 ing, evidence-based or evidence-informed pro-
3 grams for preventing suicide and improving
4 mental health and resiliency among health care
5 professionals;

6 “(C) establishing new, or enhancing exist-
7 ing, peer-support programs among health care
8 professionals; or

9 “(D) providing mental health care, follow-
10 up services and care, or referral for such serv-
11 ices and care, as appropriate.

12 “(3) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants and con-
13 tracts under this subsection, the Secretary shall give
14 priority to eligible entities in health professional
15 shortage areas or rural areas.

16 “(b) TRAINING GRANTS.—The Secretary may estab-
17 lish a program to award grants to health professions
18 schools, academic health centers, State or local govern-
19 ments, Indian Tribes or Tribal organizations, or other ap-
20 propriate public or private nonprofit entities (or consortia
21 of entities, including entities promoting multidisciplinary
22 approaches) to support the training of health care stu-
23 dents, residents, or health care professionals in evidence-
24 based or evidence-informed strategies to address mental

1 and substance use disorders and improve mental health
2 and resiliency among health care professionals.

3 “(c) GRANT TERMS.—A grant or contract awarded
4 under subsection (a) or (b) shall be for a period of 3 years.

5 “(d) APPLICATION SUBMISSION.—An entity seeking
6 a grant or contract under subsection (a) or (b) shall sub-
7 mit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
8 manner, and accompanied by such information as the Sec-
9 retary may require.

10 “(e) REPORTING.—An entity awarded a grant or con-
11 tract under subsection (a) or (b) shall periodically submit
12 to the Secretary a report evaluating the activities sup-
13 ported by the grant or contract.

14 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
15 carry out this section and section 5 of the Dr. Lorna
16 Breen Health Care Provider Protection Act, there are au-
17 thorized to be appropriated \$35,000,000 for each of fiscal
18 years 2022 through 2024.”.

19 **SEC. 5. REVIEW WITH RESPECT TO HEALTH CARE PROFES-**
20 **SIONAL MENTAL HEALTH AND RESILIENCY.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 3 years after the
22 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consulta-
23 tion with relevant stakeholders, shall—

1 (1) conduct a review on improving health care
2 professional mental health and the outcomes of pro-
3 grams authorized under this Act; and

4 (2) submit a report to the Congress on the re-
5 sults of such review.

6 (b) CONSIDERATIONS.—The review under subsection
7 (a) shall take into account—

8 (1) the prevalence and severity of mental health
9 conditions among health professionals, and factors
10 that contribute to those mental health conditions;

11 (2) barriers to seeking and accessing mental
12 health care for health care professionals, which may
13 include consideration of stigma and licensing con-
14 cerns, and actions taken by State licensing boards,
15 schools for health professionals, health care profes-
16 sional training associations, hospital associations, or
17 other organizations, as appropriate, to address such
18 barriers;

19 (3) the impact of the COVID–19 public health
20 emergency on the mental health of health care pro-
21 fessionals and lessons learned for future public
22 health emergencies;

23 (4) factors that promote mental health and re-
24 siliency among health care professionals, including

1 programs or strategies to strengthen mental health
2 and resiliency among health care professionals; and
3 (5) the efficacy of health professional training
4 programs that promote resiliency and improve men-
5 tal health.

6 (c) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The review under sub-
7 section (a), as appropriate, shall identify best practices re-
8 lated to, and make recommendations to address—

9 (1) improving mental health and resiliency
10 among health care professionals;

11 (2) removing barriers to mental health care for
12 health care professionals; and

13 (3) strategies to promote resiliency among
14 health care professionals in health care settings.

15 **SEC. 6. GAO REPORT.**

16 Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment
17 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States
18 shall submit to the Congress a report on the extent to
19 which Federal substance use disorder and mental health
20 grant programs address the prevalence and severity of
21 mental health conditions and substance use disorders
22 among health professionals. Such report shall—

23 (1) include an analysis of available evidence and
24 data related to such conditions and programs; and

- 1 (2) assess whether there are duplicative goals
- 2 and objectives among such grant programs.

Passed the House of Representatives December 8,
2021.

Attest:

Clerk.

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