

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1667

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 9, 2021

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor, and Pensions

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## 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:                   CHERYL L. JOHNSON,  
*Clerk.*