

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2529

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategy to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Hispanic and Latino population, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 14, 2021

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (for herself, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. SOTO, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. VELA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. CORREA, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. CHU, Mr. RUIZ, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. SIRES, and Ms. ESCOBAR) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategy to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Hispanic and Latino population, 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 for
5 Latinos Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. HISPANIC AND LATINO BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL**
2 **HEALTH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRAT-**
3 **EGY.**

4 Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 290dd et seq.) is amended by adding at the
6 end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 553. BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH**
8 **AND EDUCATION STRATEGY.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
10 the Assistant Secretary, shall, in coordination with advo-
11 cacy and behavioral and mental health organizations serv-
12 ing populations of Hispanic and Latino individuals or
13 communities, develop and implement an outreach and edu-
14 cation strategy to promote behavioral and mental health
15 and reduce stigma associated with mental health condi-
16 tions and substance abuse among the Hispanic and Latino
17 populations. Such strategy shall—

18 “(1) be designed to—

19 “(A) meet the diverse cultural and lan-
20 guage needs of the various Hispanic and Latino
21 populations; and

22 “(B) be developmentally and age-appro-
23 priate;

24 “(2) increase awareness of symptoms of mental
25 illnesses common among such populations, taking
26 into account differences within subgroups, such as

1 gender, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, or
2 ethnicity, of such populations;

3 “(3) provide information on evidence-based, cul-
4 turally and linguistically appropriate and adapted
5 interventions and treatments;

6 “(4) ensure full participation of, and engage,
7 both consumers and community members in the de-
8 velopment and implementation of materials;

9 “(5) seek to broaden the perspective among
10 both individuals in these communities and stake-
11 holders serving these communities to use a com-
12 prehensive public health approach to promoting be-
13 havioral health that addresses a holistic view of
14 health by focusing on the intersection between be-
15 havioral and physical health; and

16 “(6) address the impact of the SARS-CoV-2
17 pandemic on the mental and behavioral health of the
18 Hispanic and Latino populations.

19 “(b) REPORTS.—Beginning not later than 1 year
20 after the date of the enactment of this section and annu-
21 ally thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant
22 Secretary, shall submit to Congress, and make publicly
23 available, a report on the extent to which the strategy de-
24 veloped and implemented under subsection (a) improved
25 behavioral and mental health outcomes associated with

1 mental health conditions and substance abuse among His-
2 panic and Latino populations.

3 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
5 \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.”.

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