

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1543

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 10, 2021

Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COONS, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. MARKEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. BRAUN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide best practices on student suicide awareness and prevention training and condition State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies receiving funds under section 520A of such Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

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 “Suicide Training and  
3 Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention  
4 Act of 2021” or the “STANDUP Act of 2021”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6       The Congress finds as follows:

7           (1) Since 2010, suicide has been the second-  
8 leading cause of death for young people ages 10  
9 through 24. In 2019, 6,488 young people ages 10–  
10 24 died by suicide.

11           (2) Based on the 2019 Youth Risk Behavior  
12 Survey of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
13 vention (in this section referred to as “CDC”), 8.9  
14 percent of youth in grades 9–12 reported that they  
15 made at least one suicide attempt during the 12  
16 months before the survey.

17           (3) While there is no complete count of suicide  
18 attempts in the United States, CDC data suggests  
19 that for every reported death by suicide among peo-  
20 ple ages 10 through 24, approximately 33.5 young  
21 people visit a hospital for self-harm related injuries.

22           (4) In 2019, suicide was the tenth-leading cause  
23 of death overall in the United States, with over  
24 47,500 people dying by suicide, and there were more  
25 than twice as many suicides in the United States as  
26 there were homicides.

1           (5) Youth often display warning signs and sig-  
2           nals before harming themselves or others. Research  
3           shows that 70 percent of those who die by suicide  
4           tell someone of their plans or give another warning  
5           sign.

6           (6) According to the CDC, the rates of suicide  
7           among non-Hispanic American Indians and Alaska  
8           Natives were 60 percent greater than the general  
9           population in 2019 and are the highest of any racial  
10          or ethnic group in the United States. In addition, a  
11          study of CDC data from 2001 through 2015 shows  
12          that suicide rates for Black children ages 5 through  
13          12 were roughly 2 times higher than those of simi-  
14          larly aged White children.

15 **SEC. 3. STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**  
16 **TRAINING.**

17          (a) IN GENERAL.—Title V of the Public Health Serv-  
18          ice Act is amended by inserting after section 520A of such  
19          Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–32) the following:

20 **“SEC. 520B. STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVEN-**  
21 **TION TRAINING POLICIES.**

22          “(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of  
23          funds under section 520A, each State educational agency,  
24          local educational agency, and tribal educational agency  
25          that receives such funds, directly or through a State or

1 Indian Tribe, for activities to be performed in schools with  
 2 respect to grades 6 through 12, including the Project  
 3 AWARE State Education Agency Grant Program, shall—

4 “(1) establish and implement a school-based  
 5 student suicide awareness and prevention training  
 6 policy;

7 “(2) consult with stakeholders (including prin-  
 8 cipals, teachers, parents, local tribal officials, and  
 9 other school leaders) in the development of the pol-  
 10 icy under subsection (a)(1); and

11 “(3) collect and report information in accord-  
 12 ance with subsection (c).

13 “(b) SCHOOL-BASED STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS  
 14 AND PREVENTION TRAINING POLICY.—A school-based  
 15 student suicide awareness and prevention training policy  
 16 implemented pursuant to subsection (a)—

17 “(1) shall be evidence-based;

18 “(2) shall be culturally and linguistically appro-  
 19 priate;

20 “(3) shall provide evidence-based training to  
 21 students in grades 6 through 12, using school-based  
 22 mental health service providers, if such providers are  
 23 reasonably available, regarding—

24 “(A) suicide education and awareness, in-  
 25 cluding warning signs for suicide and self-harm;

1           “(B) methods that students can use to  
2           seek help for themselves and others; and

3           “(C) student resources for suicide aware-  
4           ness and prevention;

5           “(4) shall provide for retraining of such stu-  
6           dents every school year;

7           “(5) may last for such period as the State edu-  
8           cational agency, local educational agency, or tribal  
9           educational agency involved determines to be appro-  
10          priate;

11          “(6) may be implemented through any delivery  
12          method, including in-person trainings, digital  
13          trainings, or train-the-trainer models; and

14          “(7) may include discussion of comorbidities  
15          and risk factors for suicidal ideation or self-harm,  
16          including substance misuse, sexual, or physical  
17          abuse, mental illness, and other evidence-based  
18          comorbidities or risk factors.

19          “(c) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND REPORT-  
20          ING.—Each State educational agency, local educational  
21          agency, and tribal educational agency that receives funds  
22          under section 520A shall, with respect to each school  
23          served by the agency, collect and report to the Secretary  
24          the following information:

1           “(1) The number of student trainings con-  
2           ducted.

3           “(2) The number of students trained,  
4           disaggregated by age and grade level.

5           “(3) The number of help-seeking reports made  
6           by students after implementation of such policy.

7           “(d) EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAM LISTING.—The  
8           Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Edu-  
9           cation, shall make publicly available the policies estab-  
10          lished by State educational agencies, local educational  
11          agencies, and tribal educational agencies pursuant to this  
12          section and the training that is available to students and  
13          teams pursuant to such policies, including identification  
14          of whether such training is available to trainees at no cost.

15          “(e) IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.—A State edu-  
16          cational agency, local educational agency, or tribal edu-  
17          cational agency shall establish and begin implementation  
18          of the policies required by subsection (a)(1) not later than  
19          the beginning of the third fiscal year following the date  
20          of enactment of this section for which the agency receives  
21          funds under section 520A.

22          “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23                 “(1) The term ‘evidence-based’ has the meaning  
24                 given to such term in section 8101 of the Elemen-  
25                 tary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

1           “(2) The term ‘local education agency’ has the  
2           meaning given to such term in section 8101 of the  
3           Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

4           “(3) The term ‘school-based mental health serv-  
5           ice provider’ has the meaning given to such term in  
6           section 4102(6) of the Elementary and Secondary  
7           Education Act of 1965.

8           “(4) The term ‘State educational agency’ has  
9           the meaning given to such term in section 8101 of  
10          the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
11          1965.

12          “(5) The term ‘tribal educational agency’ has  
13          the meaning given to such term in section 6132 of  
14          the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of  
15          1965.

16   **“SEC. 520B-1. BEST PRACTICES FOR STUDENT SUICIDE**  
17                   **AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING.**

18          “The Secretary, acting through the Assistant Sec-  
19          retary, in consultation with the Secretary of Education  
20          and the Bureau of Indian Education, shall—

21               “(1) publish best practices for school-based stu-  
22               dent suicide awareness and prevention training, pur-  
23               suant to section 520B, that are based on—

24                       “(A) evidence-based practices; and

1           “(B) input from relevant Federal agencies,  
 2           national organizations, Indian tribes and tribal  
 3           organizations, and related stakeholders;

4           “(2) publish guidance, based on the best prac-  
 5           tices under paragraph (1), to provide State edu-  
 6           cational agencies, local educational agencies, and  
 7           tribal educational agencies with information on stu-  
 8           dent suicide awareness and prevention best prac-  
 9           tices;

10          “(3) disseminate such best practices to State  
 11          educational agencies, local educational agencies, and  
 12          tribal educational agencies; and

13          “(4) provide technical assistance to State edu-  
 14          cational agencies, local educational agencies, and  
 15          tribal educational agencies.”.

16 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

17          The amendments made by this Act shall only apply  
 18          with respect to applications for assistance under section  
 19          520A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–  
 20          32) that are submitted after the date of enactment of this  
 21          Act.

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