To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to modify requirements for local school wellness policies.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2023

Ms. MANNING (for herself and Mr. VALADAO) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to modify requirements for local school wellness policies.

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 “Improving Mental Health and Wellness in Schools Act”.

SEC. 2. LOCAL SCHOOL WELLNESS POLICY.

Section 9A of the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1758b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—
(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting "mental health promotion and education," after "physical activity;";

(B) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking "obesity;" and inserting "obesity and eating disorders;";

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by striking "agency permit" and inserting the following: "agency—

"(A) permit";

(ii) in subparagraph (A) (as so designated)—

(I) by inserting "registered dietitians, school-based mental health services providers," after "school administrators,"; and

(II) by adding "and" after the semicolon at the end; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(B) establish a multidisciplinary team of school personnel to lead the development, implementation, and periodic review and updating of the local school wellness policy;"; and
(D) in paragraph (5)(B), by striking “1” and inserting “2”; and

(2) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting “in consultation with the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,” after “Prevention,”; and

(ii) by inserting “school-based mental health services providers (when available),” after “school food authorities,”;

(B) in paragraph (2)(C)—

(i) by striking “required to promote” and inserting the following: “required—

“(i) to promote”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) to promote mental health, encourage mental health assessments, and establish resilient school environments; and”; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Prevention,” and inserting “Prevention and the Administrator of the Substance
Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration,”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “2014,” and inserting “2026,”; and

(iii) by striking subparagraph (D).

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