

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 5413

To require the Secretary of Education to issue a rule requiring schools to implement protocols for suicide prevention, postvention, and trauma-informed care.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 12, 2023

Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mrs. PELTOLA) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Education to issue a rule requiring schools to implement protocols for suicide prevention, postvention, and trauma-informed care.

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 “Prevent Youth Suicide  
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RULES ON PROTOCOLS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION**  
2 **AT ANY EDUCATIONAL AGENCY OR INSTITU-**  
3 **TION SERVING STUDENTS IN GRADES 6**  
4 **THROUGH GRADE 12.**

5 (a) RULE.—Not later than 210 days after the date  
6 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall  
7 issue a rule requiring, as a condition of receipt of funds  
8 under an applicable program, that an educational agency  
9 or institution carry out each of the following:

10 (1) SCHOOL-BASED SUICIDE PREVENTION PRO-  
11 TOCOLS.—The development and implementation of  
12 evidence-based suicide prevention programs tailored  
13 to the needs of students, which shall include—

14 (A) biennial, evidence-based training for  
15 staff and faculty to—

16 (i) identify signs of distress and risk  
17 factors for suicide in students; and

18 (ii) in a case in which a student has  
19 been identified as exhibiting such signs or  
20 risk factors, guidelines for reporting such  
21 identification to parents and guidance  
22 counselors, and responding to concerns  
23 from such parents and counselors;

24 (B) establishing a referral system to con-  
25 nect students in need to appropriate mental

1 health resources at school and outside of school;  
2 and

3 (C) conducting awareness campaigns and  
4 educational initiatives to reduce stigma associ-  
5 ated with seeking help for mental health con-  
6 cerns.

7 (2) SUICIDE POSTVENTION SUPPORT.—The de-  
8 velopment and implementation of a suicide  
9 postvention plan to address the aftermath of a sui-  
10 cide, focusing on providing support to affected stu-  
11 dents, staff, and the broader community, which shall  
12 include—

13 (A) guidelines for communication, memori-  
14 zation, and resources for grief counseling;  
15 and

16 (B) collaboration with mental health pro-  
17 fessionals and community organizations to en-  
18 sure comprehensive postvention support.

19 (3) TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.—The adoption  
20 of a trauma-informed approach in policies and prac-  
21 tices to create a safe and supportive environment for  
22 all students, which shall include the provision of bi-  
23 ennial trauma-sensitive training for school staff to  
24 help such staff understand the potential impact of

1 trauma on students and to promote appropriate re-  
2 sponses.

3 (b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SEC-  
4 RETARY OF EDUCATION.—

5 (1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary  
6 shall provide each educational agency or institution  
7 subject to the rule issued under subsection (a) with  
8 the resources, guidelines, and technical assistance to  
9 comply with the requirements of such rule.

10 (2) COMPLIANCE MONITORING.—The Secretary  
11 shall establish to ensure compliance with the rule  
12 issued under subsection (a), which shall include peri-  
13 odic assessments, evaluations, and audits of each  
14 such educational agency or institution.

15 (3) FEEDBACK AND IMPROVEMENT.—The Sec-  
16 retary shall—

17 (A) encourage educational agencies and in-  
18 stitutions to provide feedback to the Secretary  
19 on the effectiveness of the requirements issued  
20 under the rule; and

21 (B) review such feedback and make nec-  
22 essary revisions to such rule.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1           (1) APPLICABLE PROGRAM.—The term “appli-  
2           cable program” has the meaning given the term in  
3           section 400 of the General Education Provisions Act  
4           (20 U.S.C. 1221).

5           (2) EDUCATIONAL AGENCY OR INSTITUTION.—  
6           The term “educational agency or institution” means  
7           an educational agency or institution (as defined in  
8           section 444(a)(3) of the General Education Provi-  
9           sions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g)) that serves students in  
10          any grade from grade 6 through grade 12, as deter-  
11          mined under State law.

12          (3) PARENT.—The term “parent” has the  
13          meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Ele-  
14          mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20  
15          U.S.C. 7801).

16          (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
17          the Secretary of Education.

18          (5) SUICIDE POSTVENTION.—The term “suicide  
19          postvention” means activities and support provided  
20          after a suicide has occurred, designed to help indi-  
21          viduals cope with the loss, minimize potential nega-  
22          tive impacts, and prevent contagion.

23          (6) SUICIDE PREVENTION.—The term “suicide  
24          prevention” means comprehensive strategies and ac-  
25          tions aimed at identifying individuals at risk of sui-

1       cide, providing appropriate interventions, and fos-  
2       tering a supportive environment to reduce the likeli-  
3       hood of suicidal behavior.

4               (7)   TRAUMA-INFORMED   CARE.—The   term  
5       “trauma-informed care” means an approach based  
6       on an understanding of the vulnerabilities and trig-  
7       gers of individuals who have experienced trauma,  
8       recognize the role trauma has played in the lives of  
9       those individuals, recognize the presence of trauma  
10      symptoms and their onset, are supportive of trauma  
11      recovery, and avoid further traumatization.

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