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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to local educational agencies for the implementation of culturally responsive youth suicide prevention programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. MENEFEE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to local educational agencies for the implementation of culturally responsive youth suicide prevention programs, and for other purposes.

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 ''Suicide Prevention for At-Risk K-12 Students Act'' or the ''SPARKS Act''.

SEC. 2. CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM.

Subpart 3 of part B of title V of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–31) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 520O. CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE YOUTH SUICIDE PREVENTION.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary, shall establish a grant program to award grants, on a competitive basis, to local educational agencies for the implementation of eligible suicide prevention programs.

''(b) ELIGIBLE SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAMS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall—

''(A) identify suicide prevention programs that—

''(i) address suicide prevention in youth between the ages of 10 and 20;

''(ii) are evidence-based; and

''(iii) are culturally responsive programs;

''(B) publish a list of such programs; and

''(C) issue standards for the implementation of such programs.

''(2) IDENTIFICATION OF PROGRAMS.—In identifying suicide prevention programs under paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary shall refer to information on suicide prevention programs maintained by—

''(A) the Suicide Prevention Resource Center established under section 520C; or

''(B) any other relevant evidence clearinghouse with rigorous standards of evidence.

''(c) APPLICATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this section, a local educational agency shall submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(2) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—A local educational agency shall include in an application under paragraph (1) the following:

''(A) Identification of each student population served by such local educational agency that may have a higher risk of suicide or self-harm, based on screening and risk assessment techniques that—

''(i) are evidence-based; and

''(ii) consider the ages, life stages, interests, abilities, and needs of each such population.

''(B) Research on the cultural context of the community that such local educational agency intends to serve through such program.

''(C) Information on the eligible suicide prevention program that such local educational agency intends to implement.

''(D) A commitment by such local educational agency to—

''(i) not later than 120 days after receipt of a grant under this section, begin implementation of such program;

''(ii) ensure implementation of such program in a manner that is culturally competent; and

''(iii) evaluate the results of such program, in accordance with requirements to be established by the Secretary.

''(d) USE OF FUNDS.—A local educational agency that receives a grant under this section shall use the funds from such grant to—

''(1) implement an eligible suicide prevention program;

''(2) provide training to school personnel on youth suicide prevention that is consistent with such program; and

''(3) evaluate the results of such program.

''(e) GRANT DURATION.—The Secretary may not award a grant under this section to a local educational agency for a period of more than 2 years.

''(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall provide technical assistance to a local educational agency that receives a grant under this section in carrying out the activities described in subsection (d), including by—

''(1) providing information on how to implement an eligible suicide prevention program;

''(2) providing information on evidence-based programs and practices to reduce the risk of suicide and the rate of suicide among at-risk student populations; and

''(3) assisting such local educational agency in evaluating the results of the eligible suicide prevention program implemented by such local educational agency under this section.

''(g) NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY.—For purposes of making grants under this section, the Secretary shall publish information related to such grants, including—

''(1) standards for the implementation of eligible suicide prevention programs; and

''(2) the technical assistance that the Secretary will provide to a local educational agency that receives a grant under this section.

''(h) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which a local educational agency receives a grant under this section, and on an annual basis thereafter for the duration of the grant, such local educational agency shall submit to the Secretary a report that—

''(1) describes the results of the eligible suicide prevention program implemented by such local educational agency using the amounts of such grant; and

''(2) includes program data for evaluation, as required by the Secretary.

''(i) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

''(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report containing—

''(A) the standards for the implementation of eligible suicide prevention programs issued under subsection (b);

''(B) an evaluation of the results of the implementation of such programs by local educational agencies that received grants under this section; and

''(C) any recommendation of the Secretary on whether the grant program under this section should be extended.

''(2) REPORT IF NO GRANT AWARDED.—If the Secretary does not award a grant under this section on or before the date that is 2 years after the date of enactment of this section, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report that explains why the Secretary did not award such a grant.

''(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) CULTURALLY COMPETENT.—The term 'culturally competent' means possessing the knowledge, awareness, and skill to interact with students from various cultures, experiences, and communities.

''(2) CULTURALLY RESPONSIVE PROGRAM.—The term 'culturally responsive program' means a suicide prevention program that actively recognizes, respects, and integrates the beliefs, practices, and cultural and linguistic needs and preferences of the population served by such program, considering factors that include—

"(A) race and ethnicity;

"(B) age;

"(C) physical and mental health;

"(D) geographic area;

"(E) religion; and

"(F) other self-identities and characteristics.

"(3) ELIGIBLE SUICIDE PREVENTION PROGRAM.—The term 'eligible suicide prevention program' means a program identified by the Secretary under subsection (b).

"(4) LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The term 'local educational agency' has the meaning given such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

"(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section $15,000,000 for each fiscal year.".