

SUICIDE TRAINING AND AWARENESS NATIONALLY
DELIVERED FOR UNIVERSAL PREVENTION ACT OF 2020

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the
State of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. PALLONE, from the Committee on Energy and Commerce,
submitted the following

R E P O R T

[To accompany H.R. 7293]

The Committee on Energy and Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 7293) 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, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and recommends that the bill as amended do pass.

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The amendment is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2020” or the “STANDUP Act of 2020”.

SEC. 2. STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING.

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

“SEC. 520B. STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING POLICIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of funds under section 520A, each State educational agency, local educational agency, and Tribal educational agency that receives such funds, directly or through a State or Indian Tribe, for activities to be performed within secondary schools, including the Project AWARE State Education Agency Grant Program, shall—

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

“(2) consult with stakeholders (including principals, teachers, parents, local Tribal officials, and other school leaders) in the development of the policy under subsection (a)(1); and

“(3) collect and report information in accordance with subsection (c).

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

“(1) shall be evidence-based;

“(2) shall be culturally and linguistically appropriate;

“(3) shall provide evidence-based training to students in grades 6 through 12, in coordination with school-based mental health service providers as defined in section 4102(6) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, if applicable, regarding—

“(A) suicide education and awareness, including warning signs of self-harm or suicidal ideation;

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

“(C) student resources for suicide awareness and prevention;

“(4) shall provide for retraining of such students every school year;

“(5) may last for such period as the State educational agency, local educational agency, or Tribal educational agency involved determines to be appropriate;

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

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

“(c) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND REPORTING.—Each State educational agency, local educational agency, and Tribal educational agency that receives funds under section 520A shall, with respect to each school served by the agency, collect and report to the Secretary the following information:

“(1) The number of student trainings conducted.

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

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

“(d) EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAM LISTING.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall coordinate with the Secretary of Education to make publicly available the policies established by State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies pursuant to this section and the training that is available to students and teams pursuant to such policies, including identification of whether such training is available to trainees at no cost.

“(e) IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.—A State educational agency, local educational agency, or Tribal educational agency shall establish and begin implementation of the policies required by subsection (a)(1) not later than the beginning of the third fiscal year following the date of enactment of this section for which the agency receives funds under section 520A.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section and section 520B–1:

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

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

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

“(4) The term ‘Tribal educational agency’ has the meaning given to the term ‘tribal educational agency’ in section 6132 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

“SEC. 520B–1. BEST PRACTICES FOR STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING.

“The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Bureau of Indian Education, shall—

“(1) publish best practices for school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training, pursuant to section 520B, that are based on—

“(A) evidence-based practices; and

“(B) input from relevant Federal agencies, national organizations, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, and related stakeholders;

“(2) publish guidance, based on the best practices under paragraph (1), to provide State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies with information on student suicide awareness and prevention best practices;

“(3) disseminate such best practices to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies; and

“(4) provide technical assistance to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies.”.

SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.

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

I. PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

H.R. 7293, the “Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2020” or the “STANDUP Act of 2020”, was introduced by Representatives Scott Peters (D–CA), Gus Bilirakis (R–FL), Theodore E. Deutch (D–FL), and Brian K. Fitzpatrick (R–PA) on July 22, 2020. This bill would require State and Tribal educational agencies that receive certain mental health grants to establish and implement school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policies and collect information on such activities. The training policies would be focused on grades six through 12 and would train students on self-harm and suicidal ideation. The bill also requires the publication of best practices for school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training.

II. BACKGROUND AND NEED FOR THE LEGISLATION

Suicide is in the top ten leading causes of death in the United States.¹ It is the second leading cause of death for young Americans between the age of 10 and 34.² Data show that suicide rates among young people in Black communities are also on the rise.³ In testimony, Dr. Jeffery Geller, President of the American Psychiatric Association, highlighted that before the coronavirus pandemic, “. . . the suicide rate was the highest it has been since the Second

¹National Center for Health Statistics, Leading Causes of Death (www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/leading-causes-of-death.htm) (accessed September 21, 2020).

²National Center for Health Statistics, Leading Causes of Death Reports, 1981–2018 (accessed September 19, 2020).

³*We’re losing our kids’: Black youth suicide rate rising far faster than for whites; coronavirus, police violence deepen trauma*, USA Today (June 7, 2020) (www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/06/07/coronavirus-police-violence-boost-risksrising-black-youth-suicide/2300765001/).

World War.”⁴ Now, recent data show that as many as one in four students are reporting having suicidal thoughts.⁵

While the causes can be complicated, suicide and self-harm are often preventable. In fact, eight out of ten people considering suicide provided some sign of their intentions.⁶ The need to help students in preventing youth suicide and other self-harm was raised before the Committee by Arriana Gross, a high school student from Covington, Georgia, who argued in her testimony the importance of training students to recognize warning signs. She told the Committee, “I recently had a friend who was struggling and didn’t feel comfortable talking to her parents or a teacher. However, she was only comfortable talking to me.” She said that because of her student mental health and wellness training, she “knew how to have the conversation with her and make sure she was supported.” Student mental health and wellness trainings similar to Arriana’s training, which was provided by Sandy Hook Promise’s SAVE Promise Club, have been used in more than 3,000 schools nationwide across 49 States.⁷

H.R. 7293 would encourage schools to expand evidence-based suicide prevention training to students and make public best practices for such training as a condition of receiving funds under the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Project AWARE grant program.

III. COMMITTEE HEARINGS

For the purposes of section 103(i) of H. Res. 6 of the 116th Congress, the following hearing was used to develop or consider H.R. 7293:

The Subcommittee on Health held a legislative hearing on June 30, 2020, to consider H.R. 7293, the “Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2020” or the “STANDUP Act of 2020”, and 21 other bills. The hearing was entitled “High Anxiety and Stress: Legislation to Improve Mental Health During Crisis.” The Subcommittee received testimony from the following witnesses:

- Former Representative Patrick J. Kennedy, Founder, the Kennedy Forum
- Arthur C. Evans, Jr., Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, American Psychological Association
- Jeffrey L. Geller, M.D., M.P.H., President, American Psychiatric Association, Professor of Psychiatry and Director of Public Sector Psychiatry at the University of Massachusetts Medical School Worcester Recovery Center and Hospital
- Arriana Gross, National Youth Advisory Board Member, Sandy Hook Promise Students Against Violence Everywhere (SAVE) Promise Club

⁴House Committee on Energy and commerce, Testimony of Jeffery L Geller, M.D., M.P.H., President, American Psychiatric Association (June 30, 2020).

⁵Czeisler ME, Lane RI, Petrosky E, et al. *Mental Health, Substance Use, and Suicidal Ideation During the COVID-19 Pandemic—United States, June 24–30, 2020*. MMWR Morb Mortal Wkly.

⁶Mental Health America, *Suicide* (www.mhanational.org/conditions/suicide) (accessed September 21, 2020).

⁷Sandy Hook Promise, *SAVE Promise Club* (www.sandyhookpromise.org/our-programs/save-promise-club/) (accessed September 21, 2020).

IV. COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION

Representatives Peters (D–CA), Bilirakis (R–FL), Deutch (D–FL), and Fitzpatrick (R–PA) introduced H.R. 7293, the “Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2020” or the “STANDUP Act of 2020”, on June 22, 2020, and the bill was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 7293 was then referred to the Subcommittee on Health on June 23, 2020. A legislative hearing was held on the bill on June 30, 2020.

On September 9, 2020, H.R. 7293 was discharged from further consideration by the Subcommittee on Health as it was called up for markup by the full Committee on Energy and Commerce. The full Committee met in virtual open markup session on September 9, 2020, pursuant to notice, to consider H.R. 7293. During consideration of the bill, a manager’s amendment offered by Mr. Peters of California was agreed to by a voice vote. At the conclusion of markup of the bill, Mr. Pallone, Chairman of the committee, moved that H.R. 7293 be ordered reported favorably to the House, amended. The motion on final passage was agreed to by the Committee by a voice vote, a quorum being present.

V. COMMITTEE VOTES

Clause 3(b) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives requires the Committee to list each record vote on the motion to report legislation and amendments thereto. The Committee advises that there were no record votes taken on H.R. 7293, including the motion for final passage of the bill.

VI. OVERSIGHT FINDINGS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(1) of rule XIII and clause 2(b)(1) of rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the oversight findings and recommendations of the Committee are reflected in the descriptive portion of the report.

VII. NEW BUDGET AUTHORITY, ENTITLEMENT AUTHORITY, AND TAX EXPENDITURES

Pursuant to 3(c)(2) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Committee adopts as its own the estimate of new budget authority, entitlement authority, or tax expenditures or revenues contained in the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

The Committee has requested but not received from the Director of the Congressional Budget Office a statement as to whether this bill contains any new budget authority, spending authority, credit authority, or an increase or decrease in revenues or tax expenditures.

VIII. FEDERAL MANDATES STATEMENT

The Committee adopts as its own the estimate of Federal mandates prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 423 of the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

IX. Statement of General Performance Goals and Objectives

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(4) of rule XIII, the general performance goal or objective of this legislation is 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 the Public Health Service Act to establish and implement a school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training policy.

X. DUPLICATION OF FEDERAL PROGRAMS

Pursuant to clause 3(c)(5) of rule XIII, no provision of H.R. 7293 is known to be duplicative of another Federal program, including any program that was included in a report to Congress pursuant to section 21 of Public Law 111–139 or the most recent Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance.

XI. COMMITTEE COST ESTIMATE

Pursuant to clause 3(d)(1) of rule XIII, the Committee adopts as its own the cost estimate prepared by the Director of the Congressional Budget Office pursuant to section 402 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

XII. EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, AND LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Pursuant to clause 9(e), 9(f), and 9(g) of rule XXI, the Committee finds that H.R. 7293 contains no earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits.

XIII. ADVISORY COMMITTEE STATEMENT

No advisory committee within the meaning of section 5(b) of the Federal Advisory Committee Act was created by this legislation.

XIV. APPLICABILITY TO LEGISLATIVE BRANCH

The Committee finds that the legislation does not relate to the terms and conditions of employment or access to public services or accommodations within the meaning of section 102(b)(3) of the Congressional Accountability Act.

XV. SECTION-BY-SECTION ANALYSIS OF THE LEGISLATION

Section 1. Short title

Section 1 designates that the short title may be cited as the “Suicide Training and Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention Act of 2020” or the “STANDUP Act of 2020”.

Sec. 2. Student suicide awareness and prevention training

Section 2 amends the Public Health Service Act to add two new sections 520B and 520B–1. The new section 520B requires State education agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies that receive Project AWARE grants from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration (SAMHSA) to establish and implement school-based student suicide and prevention training policies. These policies must be developed in consultation

with stakeholders and must include the collection and reporting of information on the impact of the policies.

The policies implemented under this section must be evidence-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate, and target students in grades 6 through 12. The training must include suicide education and awareness, methods that students can use to seek help for themselves and others, and other student suicide awareness and prevention resources. The trainings must include retraining of students every school year and can be implemented through various means such as in-person trainings or digital trainings. These policies may also include discussion of comorbidities or other risk factors.

The educational agencies under this section are required to collect and report certain information to the Secretary of Education, including the number of trainings conducted; the number of students trained, disaggregated by age and grade level; and the number of help-seeking reports after policy implementation.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services, with the Secretary of Education, is directed to make publicly available the policies established by educational entities and the training available to students, including which training is available at no cost.

The educational agencies under this section must begin implementation of the policies not later than three fiscal years after the day of enactment of this Act.

The terms “evidence-based”, “local educational agency”, “State educational agency”, and “Tribal educational agency” all have the meaning given to those terms under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

The new section 520B–1 requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Bureau of Indian Education, to publish and disseminate best practices, guidance, and technical assistance for school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training.

Sec. 3. Effective date

Section 3 states that the amendments made by this bill only apply to applications for assistance under section 520A of the Public Health Service Act that are submitted after enactment.

XVI. CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW MADE BY THE BILL, AS REPORTED

In compliance with clause 3(e) of rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, changes in existing law made by the bill, as reported, are shown as follows (new matter is printed in italics and existing law in which no change is proposed is shown in roman):

PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT

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TITLE V—SUBSTANCE ABUSE AND MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES ADMINISTRATION

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PART B—CENTERS AND PROGRAMS

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Subpart 3—Center for Mental Health Services

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SEC. 520B. STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING POLICIES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—As a condition on receipt of funds under section 520A, each State educational agency, local educational agency, and Tribal educational agency that receives such funds, directly or through a State or Indian Tribe, for activities to be performed within secondary schools, including the Project AWARE State Education Agency Grant Program, shall—

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

(2) consult with stakeholders (including principals, teachers, parents, local Tribal officials, and other school leaders) in the development of the policy under subsection (a)(1); and

(3) collect and report information in accordance with subsection (c).

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

(1) shall be evidence-based;

(2) shall be culturally and linguistically appropriate;

(3) shall provide evidence-based training to students in grades 6 through 12, in coordination with school-based mental health service providers as defined in section 4102(6) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, if applicable, regarding—

(A) suicide education and awareness, including warning signs of self-harm or suicidal ideation;

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

(C) student resources for suicide awareness and prevention;

(4) shall provide for retraining of such students every school year;

(5) may last for such period as the State educational agency, local educational agency, or Tribal educational agency involved determines to be appropriate;

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

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

(c) *COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND REPORTING.*—Each State educational agency, local educational agency, and Tribal educational agency that receives funds under section 520A shall, with

respect to each school served by the agency, collect and report to the Secretary the following information:

- (1) The number of student trainings conducted.
- (2) The number of students trained, disaggregated by age and grade level.
- (3) The number of help-seeking reports made by students after implementation of such policy.

(d) **EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAM LISTING.**—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall coordinate with the Secretary of Education to make publicly available the policies established by State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies pursuant to this section and the training that is available to students and teams pursuant to such policies, including identification of whether such training is available to trainees at no cost.

(e) **IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.**—A State educational agency, local educational agency, or Tribal educational agency shall establish and begin implementation of the policies required by subsection (a)(1) not later than the beginning of the third fiscal year following the date of enactment of this section for which the agency receives funds under section 520A.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section and section 520B–1:

- (1) The term “evidence-based” has the meaning given to such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- (2) The term “local educational agency” has the meaning given to such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- (3) The term “State educational agency” has the meaning given to such term in section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.
- (4) The term “Tribal educational agency” has the meaning given to the term “tribal educational agency” in section 6132 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965.

SEC. 520B–1. BEST PRACTICES FOR STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING.

The Secretary of Health and Human Services, in consultation with the Secretary of Education and the Bureau of Indian Education, shall—

- (1) publish best practices for school-based student suicide awareness and prevention training, pursuant to section 520B, that are based on—
 - (A) evidence-based practices; and
 - (B) input from relevant Federal agencies, national organizations, Indian Tribes and Tribal organizations, and related stakeholders;
- (2) publish guidance, based on the best practices under paragraph (1), to provide State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies with information on student suicide awareness and prevention best practices;
- (3) disseminate such best practices to State educational agencies, local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies; and

*(4) provide technical assistance to State educational agencies,
local educational agencies, and Tribal educational agencies.*

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