

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3351

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2020

Mr. CORNYN (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

A BILL

To direct the Director of the National Science Foundation to support multidisciplinary research on the science of suicide, and to advance the knowledge and understanding of issues that may be associated with several aspects of suicide including intrinsic and extrinsic factors related to areas such as wellbeing, resilience, and vulnerability.

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 “Advancing Research
5 to Prevent Suicide Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The rate of Americans dying by suicide is
4 on the rise, increasing 10.7 to 14.0 deaths per
5 100,000 people from 2001 to 2017.

6 (2) Suicide is the tenth-leading cause of death
7 among people in the United States and the second-
8 leading cause of death for young people between the
9 ages of 15 and 34.

10 (3) The National Science Foundation funds re-
11 search that is improving our basic understanding of
12 factors with potential relevance to suicide, including
13 potential relevance to prevention and treatment.

14 (4) Despite progress in mental health research,
15 current gaps exist in scientific understanding and
16 basic knowledge of human neural, genetic, cognitive,
17 perceptual, behavioral, social, and environmental fac-
18 tors with potential relevance to suicide.

19 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION RESEARCH.**

20 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National
21 Science Foundation, in consultation with the Director of
22 the National Institutes of Health and the Director of the
23 National Institute of Mental Health, where appropriate,
24 shall, subject to the availability of appropriations, award
25 grants on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis to institu-
26 tions of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the

1 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) (or con-
 2 sortia of such institutions) to support multidisciplinary,
 3 fundamental research with potential relevance to suicide,
 4 including potential relevance to prevention and treatment,
 5 including—

6 (1) basic understanding of human social behav-
 7 ior;

8 (2) the neural basis of human cognition;

9 (3) basic understanding of cognitive, linguistic,
 10 social, cultural, and biological processes related to
 11 human development across the lifespan;

12 (4) basic understanding of perceptual, motor,
 13 and cognitive processes, and their interaction, in
 14 typical human behavior; and

15 (5) basic understanding of the relevance of drug
 16 and alcohol abuse.

17 (b) APPLICATIONS FROM EARLY CAREER RE-
 18 SEARCHERS.—To promote the development of early career
 19 researchers, in awarding funds under subsection (a), the
 20 Director of the National Science Foundation shall encour-
 21 age applications submitted by early career researchers, in-
 22 cluding doctoral students or postdoctoral researchers.

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