

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7255

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to health care providers to establish or expand programs dedicated to promoting mental wellness among their health care workers, including contractors, on the front lines of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 18, 2020

Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY (for himself, Mr. KATKO, and Ms. WILSON of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to health care providers to establish or expand programs dedicated to promoting mental wellness among their health care workers, including contractors, on the front lines of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, and for other purposes.

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 “Coronavirus Health
5 Care Worker Wellness Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) Health care workers on the front lines of
4 the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic experience extraor-
5 dinary levels of stress that may impact their imme-
6 diate and long-term wellbeing.

7 (2) Health care workers experienced high rates
8 of burnout and mental health disorders before the
9 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

10 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

11 It is the sense of the Congress that—

12 (1) health care workers on the front lines of the
13 SARS-CoV-2 pandemic deserve access to resources
14 that promote mental wellness during the pandemic
15 and in its aftermath; and

16 (2) the Federal Government has an interest in
17 improving the overall mental health and professional
18 satisfaction of the Nation’s health care workforce.

19 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS TO PRO-**
20 **MOTE MENTAL WELLNESS AMONG THEIR**
21 **WORKERS.**

22 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
23 Human Services (in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
24 retary”), acting through the Director of the Agency for
25 Healthcare Research and Quality, in collaboration with
26 one or more national medical professional organizations,

1 shall award grants to health care providers to establish
2 or expand programs dedicated to promoting mental
3 wellness among their health care workers, including con-
4 tractors, on the front lines of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

5 (b) PROCESS.—

6 (1) APPLICATION AVAILABILITY.—Not later
7 than 30 days after the date of enactment of this
8 Act, the Secretary shall make available the applica-
9 tion form and announce the process for applying for
10 a grant under this section.

11 (2) APPLICATION SUBMISSION.—To seek a
12 grant under this section, an applicant shall submit
13 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such
14 manner, and containing such information and assur-
15 ances as the Secretary may require.

16 (3) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Not later than
17 30 days after approving an application for a grant
18 under this section, the Secretary shall make the
19 grant funds available to the grantee.

20 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
21 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
22 such sums as may be necessary for the period of fiscal
23 years 2021 and 2022.

1 **SEC. 5. COMPREHENSIVE STUDY ON HEALTH CARE WORK-**
2 **ER MENTAL HEALTH AND BURNOUT.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through the
4 Director of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Qual-
5 ity, in collaboration with one or more national medical pro-
6 fessional organizations, shall commission a comprehensive
7 study on health care worker mental health and burnout.

8 (b) FOCUS AREAS.—The study under subsection (a)
9 shall focus on identifying—

10 (1) the factors that contribute to poor mental
11 health and burnout among health care workers;

12 (2) the barriers to health care workers seeking
13 and accessing mental health treatment;

14 (3) the implications of poor mental health and
15 burnout among health care workers for the health
16 care system and patient outcomes;

17 (4) the best ways to prevent and address the
18 problems described in paragraphs (1) through (3);

19 (5) the impact of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic
20 on the mental health of health care workers and re-
21 lated preparedness strategies for future health emer-
22 gencies; and

23 (6) the efficacy of programs funded pursuant to
24 section 4.

25 (c) COMPLETION; REPORT.—The Secretary shall—

1 (1) ensure that the study commissioned under
2 subsection (a) is completed not later than the day
3 that is 1 year after the date of on which the Sec-
4 retary makes the final expenditure of funds for such
5 study; and

6 (2) submit a report to the Congress not later
7 than such day on the findings and conclusions of
8 such study, including recommendations for address-
9 ing health care worker mental health and burnout.

10 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
11 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
12 such sums as may be necessary for the period of fiscal
13 years 2021 through 2025.

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