

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6645

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 28, 2020

Mr. TONKO introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, 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. RESEARCH ON THE MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT**
4 **OF COVID-19.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
6 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-
7 retary”), acting through the Director of the National In-

stitute of Mental Health, shall conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Research under subsection (a) may include—

(1) research on the mental health impact of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 on health care providers, including—

(A) traumatic stress;

(B) psychological distress; and

(C) psychiatric disorders; and

(2) research on the impact of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 stressors on mental health over time;

(3) research to strengthen the mental health response to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, including adapting to and maintaining or providing additional services for new or increasing mental health needs;

(4) research on the reach, efficiency, effectiveness, and quality of digital mental health interventions;

(5) research on the effectiveness of strategies for implementation and delivery of evidence-based mental health interventions and services for underserved populations; and

(6) research on suicide prevention.

1 (c) RESEARCH COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall
2 coordinate activities under this section with similar activi-
3 ties conducted by national research institutes and centers
4 of the National Institutes of Health to the extent that
5 such institutes and centers have responsibilities that are
6 related to the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-
7 2 or COVID-19.

8 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
9 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated
10 \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025,
11 to remain available until expended.

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