

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2492

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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019

Mr. GARDNER (for himself, Mr. JONES, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. COONS, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. CORNYN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

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.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Suicide Training and
3 Awareness Nationally Delivered for Universal Prevention
4 Act of 2019” or the “STANDUP Act of 2019”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress finds as follows:

7 (1) Since 2010, suicide has been the second-
8 leading cause of death for young people ages 10–24.
9 In 2016, 6,159 young people ages 10–24 died by
10 suicide.

11 (2) Based on the 2017 Youth Risk Behavior
12 Survey of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
13 vention (in this section referred to as “CDC”), 7.4
14 percent of youth in grades 9–12 reported that they
15 made at least one suicide attempt in the past 12
16 months.

17 (3) While there is no complete count of suicide
18 attempts in the United States, CDC data suggests
19 that for every reported suicide death, approximately
20 11.4 people visit a hospital for self-harm-related in-
21 juries.

22 (4) In 2016, suicide was the 10th-leading cause
23 of death overall in the United States, with over
24 44,000 people dying by suicide, and there were more
25 than twice as many suicides in the United States as
26 there were homicides.

1 (5) Youth often display warning signs and sig-
 2 nals before harming themselves or others. Research
 3 shows that 70 percent of those who die by suicide
 4 tell someone of their plans or give another warning
 5 sign.

6 (6) According to the CDC, the rates of suicide
 7 among American Indians and Alaska Natives have
 8 been increasing since 2003 and are the highest of
 9 any racial or ethnic group in the United States. In
 10 addition, recent studies of CDC data from 2001
 11 through 2015 show that suicide rates for Black chil-
 12 dren ages 5 through 12 were roughly two times
 13 higher than those of similarly aged White children.

14 **SEC. 3. STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVENTION**
 15 **TRAINING.**

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

19 **“SEC. 520B. STUDENT SUICIDE AWARENESS AND PREVEN-**
 20 **TION TRAINING POLICIES.**

21 “(a) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of
 22 funds under section 520A, each State educational agency,
 23 local educational agency, and tribal educational agency
 24 that receives such funds, directly or through a State or
 25 Indian Tribe, for activities to be performed within elemen-

1 tary and secondary schools, including the Project AWARE
 2 State Education Agency Grant Program, shall—

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

6 “(2) consult with stakeholders (including prin-
 7 cipals, teachers, parents, other school leaders) in the
 8 development of the policy under subsection (a)(1);
 9 and

10 “(3) collect and report information in accord-
 11 ance with subsection (c).

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

16 “(1) shall be evidence-based;

17 “(2) shall provide evidence-based training to
 18 students in grades 6 through 12, in coordination
 19 with school-based mental health service providers as
 20 defined in section 4102(6) of the Elementary and
 21 Secondary Education Act of 1965, if applicable, re-
 22 garding—

23 “(A) suicide education and awareness, in-
 24 cluding warning signs of self-harm or suicidal
 25 ideation;

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

3 “(C) student resources for suicide aware-
4 ness and prevention;

5 “(3) shall provide for retraining of such stu-
6 dents every school year;

7 “(4) may last for such period as the State edu-
8 cational agency, local educational agency, or tribal
9 educational agency involved determines to be appro-
10 prium; and

11 “(5) may be implemented through any delivery
12 method, including in-person trainings, digital
13 trainings, or train-the-trainer models.

14 “(c) COLLECTION OF INFORMATION AND REPORT-
15 ING.—Each State educational agency, local educational
16 agency, and tribal educational agency that receives funds
17 under section 520A shall, with respect to each school
18 served by the agency, collect and report to the Secretary
19 the following information:

20 “(1) The number of student trainings con-
21 ducted.

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

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

1 “(d) EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAM LISTING.—The
 2 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall coordinate
 3 with the Secretary of Education to make publicly available
 4 the policies established by State educational agencies, local
 5 educational agencies, and tribal educational agencies pur-
 6 suant to this section and the training that is available to
 7 students and teams pursuant to such policies, including
 8 identification of whether such training is available to
 9 trainees at no cost.

10 “(e) IMPLEMENTATION TIMELINE.—A State edu-
 11 cational agency, local educational agency, or tribal edu-
 12 cational agency shall establish and begin implementation
 13 of the policies required by subsection (a)(1) not later than
 14 the beginning of the third fiscal year following the date
 15 of enactment of this section for which the agency receives
 16 funds under section 520A.

17 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

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

24 “(3) The term ‘State educational agency’ has
 25 the meaning given to such term in section 8101 of

1 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
2 1965.

3 “(4) The term ‘tribal educational agency’ has
4 the meaning given to such term in section 6132 of
5 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of
6 1965.

7 **“SEC. 520B-1. BEST PRACTICES FOR STUDENT SUICIDE**
8 **AWARENESS AND PREVENTION TRAINING.**

9 “The Secretary of Health and Human Services, act-
10 ing through the Assistant Secretary of the Substance
11 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, in co-
12 ordination with the Secretary of Education, shall—

13 “(1) publish best practices for school-based stu-
14 dent suicide awareness and prevention training, pur-
15 suant to section 520B, that are based on—

16 “(A) evidence-based practices; and

17 “(B) input from relevant Federal agencies,
18 national organizations, and related stake-
19 holders;

20 “(2) publish guidance, based on the best prac-
21 tices under paragraph (1), to provide State edu-
22 cational agencies, local educational agencies, and
23 tribal educational agencies with information on stu-
24 dent suicide awareness and prevention best prac-
25 tices;

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

4 “(4) provide technical assistance to State edu-
5 cational agencies, local educational agencies, and
6 tribal educational agencies.”.

7 **SEC. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

8 The amendments made by this Act shall only apply
9 with respect to applications for assistance under section
10 520A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290bb–
11 32) that are submitted after the date of enactment of this
12 Act.

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