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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To require the Secretary of Education to issue a rule requiring schools to implement protocols for suicide prevention, postvention, and trauma-informed care.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. NUNN of Iowa introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Secretary of Education to issue a rule requiring schools to implement protocols for suicide prevention, postvention, and trauma-informed care.

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 “Prevent Youth Suicide
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RULES ON PROTOCOLS FOR SUICIDE PREVENTION**
2 **AT ANY EDUCATIONAL AGENCY OR INSTITU-**
3 **TION SERVING STUDENTS IN GRADES 6**
4 **THROUGH GRADE 12.**

5 (a) RULE.—Not later than 210 days after the date
6 of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall
7 issue a rule requiring, as a condition of receipt of funds
8 under an applicable program, that an educational agency
9 or institution carry out each of the following:

10 (1) SCHOOL-BASED SUICIDE PREVENTION PRO-
11 Tocols.—The development and implementation of
12 evidence-based suicide prevention programs tailored
13 to the needs of students, which shall include—

14 (A) biennial, evidence-based training for
15 staff and faculty to—

16 (i) identify signs of distress and risk
17 factors for suicide in students; and

18 (ii) in a case in which a student has
19 been identified as exhibiting such signs or
20 risk factors, guidelines for reporting such
21 identification to parents and guidance
22 counselors, and responding to concerns
23 from such parents and counselors;

24 (B) establishing a referral system to con-
25 nect students in need to appropriate mental

1 health resources at school and outside of school;
2 and

3 (C) conducting awareness campaigns and
4 educational initiatives to reduce stigma associ-
5 ated with seeking help for mental health con-
6 cerns.

7 (2) SUICIDE POSTVENTION SUPPORT.—The de-
8 velopment and implementation of a suicide
9 postvention plan to address the aftermath of a sui-
10 cide, focusing on providing support to affected stu-
11 dents, staff, and the broader community, which shall
12 include—

13 (A) include guidelines for communication,
14 memorialization, and resources for grief coun-
15 seling; and

16 (B) collaboration with mental health pro-
17 fessionals and community organizations to en-
18 sure comprehensive postvention support.

19 (3) TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.—The adoption
20 of a trauma-informed approach in policies and prac-
21 tices to create a safe and supportive environment for
22 all students, which shall include the provision of bi-
23 ennial trauma-sensitive training for school staff to
24 help such staff understand the potential impact of

1 trauma on students and to promote appropriate re-
2 sponses.

3 (b) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SEC-
4 RETARY OF EDUCATION.—

5 (1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary
6 shall provide each educational agency or institution
7 subject to the rule issued under subsection (a) with
8 the resources, guidelines, and technical assistance to
9 comply with the requirements of such rule.

10 (2) COMPLIANCE MONITORING.—The Secretary
11 shall establish to ensure compliance with the rule
12 issued under subsection (a), which shall include peri-
13 odic assessments, evaluations, and audits of each
14 such educational agency or institution.

15 (3) FEEDBACK AND IMPROVEMENT.—The Sec-
16 retary shall—

17 (A) encourage educational agencies and in-
18 stitutions to provide feedback to the Secretary
19 on the effectiveness of the requirements issued
20 under the rule; and

21 (B) review such feedback and make nec-
22 essary revisions to such rule.

23 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

24 In this Act:

1 (1) APPLICABLE PROGRAM.—The term “appli-
2 cable program” has the meaning given the term in
3 section 400 of the General Education Provisions Act
4 (20 U.S.C. 1221).

5 (2) EDUCATIONAL AGENCY OR INSTITUTION.—
6 The term “educational agency or institution” means
7 an educational agency or institution (as defined in
8 section 444(a)(3) of the General Education Provi-
9 sions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232g)) that serves students in
10 any grade from grade 6 through grade 12, as deter-
11 mined under State law.

12 (3) PARENT.—The term “parent” has the
13 meaning given the term in section 8101 of the Ele-
14 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
15 U.S.C. 7801).

16 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
17 the Secretary of Education.

18 (5) SUICIDE POSTVENTION.—The term “suicide
19 postvention” means activities and support provided
20 after a suicide has occurred, designed to help indi-
21 viduals cope with the loss, minimize potential nega-
22 tive impacts, and prevent contagion.

23 (6) SUICIDE PREVENTION.—The term “suicide
24 prevention” means comprehensive strategies and ac-
25 tions aimed at identifying individuals at risk of sui-

1 cide, providing appropriate interventions, and fos-
2 tering a supportive environment to reduce the likeli-
3 hood of suicidal behavior.

4 (7) TRAUMA-INFORMED CARE.—The term
5 “trauma-informed care” means an approach based
6 on an understanding of the vulnerabilities and trig-
7 gers of individuals who have experienced trauma,
8 recognize the role trauma has played in the lives of
9 those individuals, recognize the presence of trauma
10 symptoms and their onset, are supportive of trauma
11 recovery, and avoid further traumatization.