

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make awards to increase or improve access to comprehensive mental and behavioral health services for individuals exposed to violent encounters involving law enforcement personnel, and for other purposes.

\_\_\_\_\_  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. BUSH introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**A BILL**

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make awards to increase or improve access to comprehensive mental and behavioral health services for individuals exposed to violent encounters involving law enforcement personnel, 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 “Helping Families Heal  
5 Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. HELPING FAMILIES HEAL PROGRAM.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
3 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-  
4 retary”), acting through the Assistant Secretary for Men-  
5 tal Health and Substance Use, shall carry out a program,  
6 to be known as the Helping Families Heal Program, con-  
7 sisting of awarding grants, contracts, and cooperative  
8 agreements to eligible entities to—

9 (1) recruit, hire, train, and dispatch mental  
10 health professionals and community health workers  
11 to provide comprehensive mental health services to  
12 individuals who have suffered traumatic experiences,  
13 or are in grief, in bereavement, or at risk of suicide  
14 or violence, as a result of—

15 (A) witnessing or experiencing law enforce-  
16 ment personnel violence;

17 (B) the death of a family member due to  
18 law enforcement personnel violence; or

19 (C) the death of a colleague or neighbor  
20 due to law enforcement personnel violence;

21 (2) implement community-based mental health  
22 programs that—

23 (A) build awareness of individual, commu-  
24 nity, and intergenerational trauma as a result  
25 of witnessing or experiencing law enforcement  
26 personnel violence;

1 (B) train staff and volunteers to identify,  
2 and screen for, signs of trauma exposure, men-  
3 tal health disorders, and risk of suicide in the  
4 wake of law enforcement personnel violence;

5 (C) incorporate community interventions,  
6 family engagement, and intergenerational coun-  
7 seling that encourage the development of posi-  
8 tive mental health, prevent mental health dis-  
9 orders, and diminish the impact of trauma re-  
10 sulting from law enforcement personnel vio-  
11 lence;

12 (D) facilitate partnerships among families,  
13 mental health and substance use disorder pro-  
14 viders, family-based mental health and sub-  
15 stance use disorder providers, trauma networks,  
16 and health care providers (including mental  
17 health professionals and community health  
18 workers who specialize in pediatric services);  
19 and

20 (E) establish mechanisms for individuals  
21 who have witnessed or experienced law enforce-  
22 ment personnel violence to report incidents of  
23 violence or plans to commit violence; or

1           (3) provide technical assistance to community-  
2           based organizations regarding the activities de-  
3           scribed in paragraphs (1) and (2).

4           (b) DURATION OF AWARDS.—The duration of a  
5           grant, contract, or cooperative agreement awarded under  
6           subsection (a) shall be no longer than 1 year.

7           (c) ADDITIONAL AWARDS.—Subject to the avail-  
8           ability of funds, the Secretary shall make an additional  
9           award of grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements  
10          under subsection (a) each fiscal year through fiscal year  
11          2029 to each recipient of an award under subsection (a)  
12          that demonstrates that its award resulted in a substantial  
13          increase in the number of individuals provided with mental  
14          health services who have witnessed or experienced law en-  
15          forcement personnel violence.

16          (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants, contracts, and  
17          cooperative agreements under this section, the Secretary  
18          shall give priority to eligible entities in communities  
19          that—

20                 (1) have high rates of interaction with law en-  
21                 forcement personnel for residents;

22                 (2) have been or are currently subject to a Fed-  
23                 eral or State investigation regarding racial bias in  
24                 the use of force by law enforcement personnel;

1           (3) have high rates of arrest and incarceration  
2           of persons with mental illness, intellectual disability,  
3           or developmental disability; or

4           (4) commit to providing in-kind contributions  
5           from non-Federal sources, or volunteer hours, for in-  
6           dividuals served by recipients of awards under this  
7           section.

8           (e) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant, con-  
9           tract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a), an  
10          entity shall be—

11          (1) a community-based mental health care or  
12          substance use disorder provider, including a public  
13          or private mental health entity, health care entity,  
14          family-based mental health entity, or trauma net-  
15          work; or

16          (2) a community-based organization or non-  
17          profit organization as determined appropriate by the  
18          Secretary.

19          (f) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not award any  
20          funds under this section to a law enforcement or child pro-  
21          tective services entity.

22          (g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
23          tion shall be construed to limit the applicability of the reg-  
24          ulations under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance  
25          Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C.

1 1320d–2 note) to any patient records developed by covered  
2 entities through activities funded through an award under  
3 this section.

4 (h) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary  
5 shall ensure that recipients of grants, contracts, and coop-  
6 erative agreements under subsection (a) are distributed  
7 equitably among the regions of the country and among  
8 urban and rural areas.

9 (i) EVALUATION AND MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—

10 (1) DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS.—The Sec-  
11 retary shall develop a fiscally appropriate process for  
12 evaluating activities carried out pursuant to an  
13 award under this section. Such process shall in-  
14 clude—

15 (A) the development of guidelines for the  
16 submission of program data by grant, contract,  
17 and cooperative agreement recipients;

18 (B) the application by such recipients of  
19 measures of outcomes developed under para-  
20 graph (2) to the programs funded through such  
21 awards; and

22 (C) the submission of annual reports by  
23 such recipients concerning the effectiveness of  
24 programs funded through such awards.

1           (2) MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—The Secretary  
2           shall develop measures of outcomes to be applied by  
3           recipients of awards under this section to evaluate  
4           the effectiveness of activities funded through such  
5           awards.

6           (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
7           authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
8           \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

9           **SEC. 3. HEALING FOR STUDENTS PROGRAM.**

10          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
11          Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-  
12          retary”), acting through the Assistant Secretary for Men-  
13          tal Health and Substance Use, shall carry out a program,  
14          to be known as the Healing for Students Program, con-  
15          sisting of awarding grants, contracts, or cooperative agree-  
16          ments to eligible entities to—

17                (1) recruit, hire, train, and dispatch mental  
18                health professionals and community health workers  
19                to provide comprehensive mental health services to  
20                students and school personnel who have suffered  
21                traumatic experiences, or are in grief, in bereave-  
22                ment, or at risk of suicide or violence, as a result  
23                of—

24                        (A) witnessing or experiencing law enforce-  
25                        ment personnel violence;

1 (B) the death of a family member due to  
2 law enforcement personnel violence; or

3 (C) the death of a colleague or neighbor  
4 due to law enforcement personnel violence;

5 (2) implement school-based mental health pro-  
6 grams that—

7 (A) build awareness of individual, commu-  
8 nity, and intergenerational trauma as a result  
9 of witnessing or experiencing law enforcement  
10 personnel violence;

11 (B) train school personnel to identify, and  
12 screen for, signs of trauma exposure, mental  
13 health disorders, and risk of suicide in the wake  
14 of law enforcement personnel violence;

15 (C) incorporate family engagement, stu-  
16 dent supports, and intergenerational counseling  
17 that encourage the development of positive  
18 mental health, prevent mental health disorders,  
19 and diminish the impact of trauma resulting  
20 from law enforcement personnel violence;

21 (D) educate students and their families on  
22 the stigma surrounding mental health;

23 (E) facilitate partnerships among families,  
24 students, mental health and substance use dis-  
25 order providers, family-based mental health and



1 substance use disorder providers, trauma net-  
2 works, and health care providers (including  
3 mental health professionals and community  
4 health workers who specialize in pediatric serv-  
5 ices); and

6 (F) establish mechanisms for students and  
7 school personnel who have witnessed or experi-  
8 enced law enforcement personnel violence to re-  
9 port incidents of violence or plans to commit vi-  
10 olence; or

11 (3) in the case of a grantee that is a local edu-  
12 cational agency or a consortium of local educational  
13 agencies, provide technical assistance to schools re-  
14 garding the activities described in paragraphs (1)  
15 and (2).

16 (b) DURATION OF AWARDS.—The duration of a  
17 grant, contract, or cooperative agreement awarded under  
18 subsection (a) shall be no longer than 1 year.

19 (c) ADDITIONAL AWARDS.—Subject to the avail-  
20 ability of funds, the Secretary shall make an additional  
21 award of grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements  
22 under subsection (a) each fiscal year through fiscal year  
23 2029 to each recipient of an award under subsection (a)  
24 that demonstrates that its award resulted in a substantial  
25 increase in the number of individuals provided with mental

1 health services who have witnessed or experienced law en-  
2 forcement personnel violence.

3 (d) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants, contracts, and  
4 cooperative agreements under this section, the Secretary  
5 shall give priority to eligible entities serving communities  
6 that—

7 (1) have high rates of interaction with law en-  
8 forcement personnel for residents;

9 (2) have been or are currently subject to a Fed-  
10 eral or State investigation regarding racial bias in  
11 the use of force by law enforcement personnel;

12 (3) have high rates of arrest and incarceration  
13 of persons with mental illness, intellectual disability,  
14 or developmental disability; or

15 (4) commit to providing in-kind contributions  
16 from non-Federal sources, or volunteer hours, for  
17 students and school personnel served by recipients of  
18 awards under this section.

19 (e) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant, con-  
20 tract, or cooperative agreement under subsection (a), an  
21 entity shall be—

22 (1) a local educational agency serving elemen-  
23 tary schools and secondary schools;

24 (2) a consortium of such local educational agen-  
25 cies; or

1 (3) an elementary school or secondary school.

2 (f) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
3 tion shall be construed to limit the applicability of the reg-  
4 ulations under section 264(c) of the Health Insurance  
5 Portability and Accountability Act of 1996 (42 U.S.C.  
6 1320d–2 note) to any patient records developed by covered  
7 entities through activities funded through an award under  
8 this section.

9 (g) GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary  
10 shall ensure that recipients of grants, contracts, and coop-  
11 erative agreements under subsection (a) are distributed  
12 equitably among the regions of the country and among  
13 urban and rural areas.

14 (h) EVALUATION AND MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—

15 (1) DEVELOPMENT OF PROCESS.—The Sec-  
16 retary shall develop a fiscally appropriate process for  
17 evaluating activities carried out pursuant to an  
18 award under this section. Such process shall in-  
19 clude—

20 (A) the development of guidelines for the  
21 submission of program data by grant, contract,  
22 and cooperative agreement recipients;

23 (B) the application by such recipients of  
24 measures of outcomes developed under para-

1 graph (2) to the programs funded through such  
2 awards; and

3 (C) the submission of annual reports by  
4 such recipients concerning the effectiveness of  
5 programs funded through such awards.

6 (2) MEASURES OF OUTCOMES.—The Secretary  
7 shall develop measures of outcomes to be applied by  
8 recipients of awards under this section to evaluate  
9 the effectiveness of activities funded through such  
10 awards.

11 (i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “ele-  
12 mentary school”, “local educational agency”, and “sec-  
13 ondary school” have the meanings given to such terms in  
14 section 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education  
15 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

16 (j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
17 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
18 \$50,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2029.

19 **SEC. 4. INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE.**

20 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and  
21 Human Services, the Secretary of Education, and the At-  
22 torney General, acting jointly, shall establish a permanent  
23 interagency task force (referred to in this section as the  
24 “Task Force”) to coordinate and promote holistic, quali-

1 fied responses to victims of law enforcement personnel vio-  
2 lence.

3 (b) MEMBERS.—The Task Force shall be composed  
4 of the following members:

5 (1) The Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
6 ices (or the Secretary’s designee).

7 (2) The Secretary of Education (or the Sec-  
8 retary’s designee).

9 (3) The Attorney General of the United States  
10 (or the Attorney General’s designee).

11 (4) The heads of other Federal departments  
12 and agencies (or their designees), as determined nec-  
13 essary by the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
14 ices.

15 (c) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall—

16 (1) solicit regular and detailed input from  
17 stakeholders, including victims of law enforcement  
18 personnel violence and their families, students, edu-  
19 cators, mental health professionals, community  
20 health workers, researchers, experts in infant, child,  
21 and youth trauma, and the public;

22 (2) recommend mechanisms for the Department  
23 of Health and Human Services, the Department of  
24 Education, and the Department of Justice to collect

1 and review statistical data about interactions with  
2 law enforcement personnel;

3 (3) identify options for coordinating existing  
4 grants that support people who have experienced law  
5 enforcement personnel violence;

6 (4) recommend other ways to improve coordina-  
7 tion, planning, and communication within and across  
8 Federal agencies, offices, and programs, to better  
9 serve people who have experienced law enforcement  
10 personnel violence; and

11 (5) facilitate ongoing efforts to streamline the  
12 application, monitoring, and reporting processes to  
13 make Federal funds provided pursuant to awards  
14 under this Act and other similar existing grants  
15 maximally accessible to small, grassroots organiza-  
16 tions that support communities acutely impacted by  
17 high rates of law enforcement personnel violence.

18 (d) MEETINGS.—For the purpose of carrying out this  
19 section, the Task Force may hold such meetings, and sit  
20 and act at such times and places, as the Task Force con-  
21 siders appropriate.

22 (e) INFORMATION.—The Task Force may secure di-  
23 rectly from any Federal agency such information as may  
24 be necessary to enable the Task Force to carry out this  
25 section. Upon request of the Chairperson of the Task

1 Force, the head of such agency shall furnish such informa-  
2 tion to the Task Force.

3 (f) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date  
4 of the first meeting of the Task Force, and at least once  
5 every 2 years thereafter, the Task Force shall—

6 (1) submit to the general public, the heads of  
7 relevant Federal departments and agencies other  
8 than those represented on the Task Force, the Com-  
9 mittee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on  
10 the Judiciary, and the Committee on Education and  
11 the Workforce of the House of Representatives, and  
12 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
13 Pensions and the Committee on the Judiciary of the  
14 Senate, a report containing all of the findings and  
15 recommendations required under this section; and

16 (2) make such report available online in an ac-  
17 cessible format.

18 **SEC. 5. DEFINITIONS.**

19 In this Act:

20 (1) COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER.—The term  
21 “community health worker” means a frontline public  
22 health worker who—

23 (A) is a trusted member of, or has a close  
24 understanding of, the community served, ena-  
25 bling the worker to serve as a link between

1 health and social services and the community,  
2 so as to facilitate access to services and improve  
3 the quality and cultural competence of service  
4 delivery; and

5 (B) builds individual and community ca-  
6 pacity by increasing health knowledge and self-  
7 sufficiency through a range of activities such as  
8 outreach, community education, informal coun-  
9 seling, social support, and advocaey.

10 (2) INTERACTION WITH LAW ENFORCEMENT  
11 PERSONNEL.—The term “interaction with law en-  
12 forcement personnel” means an interaction in  
13 which—

14 (A) a law enforcement agent uses force or  
15 threatens to use force;

16 (B) an individual is stopped by a law en-  
17 forcement agent while such individual is—

18 (i) driving a motor vehicle; or

19 (ii) otherwise in public;

20 (C) an individual is a passenger in a motor  
21 vehicle that is stopped by a law enforcement  
22 agent;

23 (D) an individual is arrested; or

24 (E) an individual is otherwise stopped or  
25 approached by a law enforcement agent.



1           (3) LAW ENFORCEMENT PERSONNEL VIO-  
2           LENCE.—The term “law enforcement personnel vio-  
3           lence” means a situation where a law enforcement  
4           agent uses force.

5           (4) USE FORCE; USES FORCE.—The terms “use  
6           force” and “uses force” include pushing, grabbing,  
7           handcuffing, hitting, kicking, using chemical or pep-  
8           per spray, using an electroshock weapon, pointing or  
9           shooting a gun, engaging in sexual assault, and  
10          other acts that can cause bodily harm.