

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9036

To establish a grant program to facilitate peer-to-peer suicide prevention programs for middle school and high school students, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 29, 2022

Mr. BEYER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a grant program to facilitate peer-to-peer suicide prevention programs for middle school and high school students, 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 “Peer-to-Peer Suicide
5 Prevention Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PEER-TO-PEER SUICIDE PREVENTION GRANT PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
4 the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 Education shall establish a program (in this section, re-
6 ferred to as the “Program”) to award grants, on a com-
7 petitive basis, to eligible entities for the purpose of facili-
8 tating peer-to-peer suicide prevention programs for middle
9 school and high school students.

10 (b) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant
11 under the Program, an eligible entity shall submit to the
12 Secretary an application at such time, in such manner,
13 and containing such information as the Secretary deter-
14 mines appropriate.

15 (c) USE OF AMOUNTS.—An eligible entity may only
16 use grant amounts provided under the Program to—

17 (1) assist an existing peer-to-peer suicide pre-
18 vention program; or

19 (2) establish a new peer-to-peer suicide preven-
20 tion program.

21 (d) RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL PRO-
22 GRAMS.—An eligible entity that receives a grant under the
23 Program may combine such grant with other Federal
24 funds awarded to support the activities carried out with
25 the grant.

26 (e) AWARDING OF GRANTS.—

1 (1) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under the
2 Program, the Secretary shall give priority to the fol-
3 lowing:

4 (A) Eligible entities not previously awarded
5 a grant under the Program.

6 (B) Eligible entities proposing to use grant
7 amounts to establish a new peer-to-peer suicide
8 prevention program.

9 (C) Eligible entities that demonstrate the
10 ability to provide peer-to-peer suicide prevention
11 programming that is evidence-informed.

12 (D) Eligible entities that demonstrate the
13 ability to provide peer-to-peer suicide prevention
14 programming that is culturally and linguis-
15 tically competent.

16 (E) Peer-to-peer suicide prevention pro-
17 grams focused primarily on student, rather
18 than teacher, training.

19 (2) GRANT AMOUNTS.—A grant awarded to an
20 eligible entity under the Program may not exceed
21 \$5,000.

22 (f) COORDINATION WITH SAMHSA.—The Secretary
23 shall consult with the Administrator of the Substance
24 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for pur-

1 poses of developing the Program and selecting eligible en-
2 tities to receive grants under Program.

3 (g) EVALUATION PROCESS.—The Secretary shall de-
4 velop and implement a process to evaluate the perform-
5 ance of eligible entities that receive grants under the Pro-
6 gram. The Secretary shall ensure that the evaluation proc-
7 ess incorporates input from students.

8 (h) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary of
9 Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-
10 ices (acting through the Administrator of the Substance
11 Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration) shall
12 carry out a program to provide technical assistance to eli-
13 gible entities applying for and receiving grants under this
14 section, which shall include the development and dissemi-
15 nation of best practices for peer-to-peer suicide prevention
16 programs.

17 (i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$20,000,000 each fiscal year.

20 (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

21 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
22 ty” means any of the following that serve at least
23 one school that provides education at the middle
24 school or high school level:

1 (A) A local educational agency (including a
2 charter school that is a local educational agen-
3 cy).

4 (B) An Indian Tribe (as defined in section
5 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
6 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) or a
7 Tribal educational agency.

8 (C) The Bureau of Indian Education.

9 (2) ESEA TERMS.—The terms “high school”
10 and “local educational agency” have the meanings
11 given the terms in section 8101 of the Elementary
12 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
13 7801).

14 (3) PEER-TO-PEER SUICIDE PREVENTION PRO-
15 GRAM.—The term “peer-to-peer suicide prevention
16 program” means a program that—

17 (A) provides students and adult advisors
18 the knowledge and skills necessary to recognize
19 and appropriately respond to the signs of sui-
20 cide and depression;

21 (B) includes an in-person training compo-
22 nent, when practicable; and

23 (C) is student-led.

- 1 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Education.

