

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8386

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish internship programs relating to behavioral health, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2022

Mr. NEGUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish internship programs relating to behavioral health, 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. INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF**  
4                       **VETERANS   AFFAIRS   FOR   BEHAVIORAL**  
5                       **HEALTH.**

6       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans  
7       Affairs shall establish paid pre-doctoral and post-doctoral  
8       internship programs for the purpose of training licensed  
9       officials to work as covered behavioral health providers.

10       (b) EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATION.—

1           (1) OBLIGATION.—Subject to subparagraph  
2           (B), as a condition of participating in an internship  
3           program under paragraph (1), the participant shall  
4           enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Vet-  
5           erans Affairs pursuant to which the participant  
6           agrees to work on a full-time basis as a covered be-  
7           havioral health provider for a period of a duration  
8           that is at least equivalent to the period of partici-  
9           pation in such internship program.

10          (2) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An  
11          agreement entered into pursuant to subparagraph  
12          (A) may include such other terms and conditions as  
13          the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may determine  
14          necessary to protect the interests of the United  
15          States or otherwise appropriate for purposes of this  
16          section, including terms and conditions providing for  
17          limited exceptions from the employment obligation  
18          specified in such subparagraph.

19          (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20                (1) The term “behavioral health provider” in-  
21                cludes psychiatry, clinical psychology, social work,  
22                counseling, and related fields.

23                (2) The term “licensed official” includes:

24                      (A) Licensed Professional Counselor  
25                      (LPC).

1 (B) Licensed Mental Health Counselor  
2 (LMHC).

3 (C) Licensed Clinical Professional Coun-  
4 selor (LCPC).

5 (D) Licensed Professional Clinical Coun-  
6 selor of Mental Health (LPCC).

7 (E) Licensed Clinical Mental Health Coun-  
8 selor (LCMHC).

9 (F) Licensed Mental Health Practitioner  
10 (LMHP).

11 (3) The term “covered behavioral health pro-  
12 vider” means behavioral health provider who—

13 (A) is an employee of the Department of  
14 Veterans Affairs; and

15 (B) whose employment by the Secretary of  
16 Veterans Affairs involves the provision of be-  
17 havioral health services at VA Medical facilities.

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