

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8892

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a public outreach campaign to inform individuals covered under a group health plan or group or individual health insurance coverage of Federal requirements relating to mental health and substance use disorder crisis services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 19, 2022

Ms. SEWELL (for herself, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. KUSTOFF) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Education and Labor, 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 direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a public outreach campaign to inform individuals covered under a group health plan or group or individual health insurance coverage of Federal requirements relating to mental health and substance use disorder crisis services, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Access to Mental
3 Health Services Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. OUTREACH AND REPORT ON ACCESS TO MENTAL**
5 **HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**
6 **CRISIS SERVICES UNDER GROUP HEALTH**
7 **PLANS AND HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE.**

8 (a) OUTREACH.—Not later than January 1, 2024,
9 the Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor,
10 and the Treasury shall initiate a joint public outreach
11 campaign to inform individuals covered under a group
12 health plan or group or individual health insurance cov-
13 erage (as such terms are defined in section 2791 of the
14 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300gg–91)) of Fed-
15 eral requirements relating to the availability of, and limi-
16 tations on the imposition of financial requirements or
17 treatment limitations for, benefits for mental health and
18 substance use disorder crisis services under such plans and
19 coverages. Such outreach shall emphasize the benefits of
20 such mental health and substance use disorder crisis serv-
21 ices, including improved individual well-being, and seek to
22 reduce perceived stigma associated with accessing such
23 mental health and substance use disorder crisis services.

24 (b) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2024, the
25 Secretaries of Health and Human Services, Labor, and
26 the Treasury shall submit to Congress a joint report on—

1 (1) coverage of mental health and substance use
2 disorder crisis services under a group health plan or
3 group or individual health insurance coverage, in-
4 cluding—

5 (A) which mental health and substance use
6 disorder services are covered as crisis services;

7 (B) the type of health care providers fur-
8 nishing such services; and

9 (C) common reimbursement approaches
10 and billing codes used with respect to such serv-
11 ices;

12 (2) barriers to individuals covered under a
13 group health plan or group or individual health in-
14 surance coverage accessing mental health and sub-
15 stance use disorder crisis services, including geo-
16 graphic barriers and barriers caused by a limited
17 availability of such mental health and substance use
18 disorder crisis services in certain service areas; and

19 (3) issues relating to unexpected bills such indi-
20 viduals may receive after being furnished such serv-
21 ices in certain service settings.

22 (c) FUNDING.—In addition to amounts otherwise
23 available for such purposes, there is appropriated

- 1 \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for pur-
- 2 poses of carrying out this section.

