



American **Counseling** Association

Federal Bills of Interest

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Mental Health Access Improvement Act of 2021 (H.R. 432/S.828)

Lead Sponsor(s): Sen John Barrasso (R-WY), Sen. Debbie Stabenow (D-MI),
Rep. Mike Thompson (D-CA) and John Katko (R-NY)

Bill Objective: Provides the authority for Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapist to enroll as a provider in the Medicare program.

Committee(s) Assigned To: Senate Finance Committee, House Energy and Commerce Committee, House Ways, and Means Committee

Current Status: Introduced in the House and Senate

Type: Bi-Partisan

Counseling for Career Choice Act (H.R. 2733)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. James Langevin (D-RI)

Bill Objective: Directs the Department of Education to award competitive grants to implement comprehensive school career counseling programs.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Education and Labor Committee

Current Status: Introduced in the House

Type: Partisan

Kids Only Safety Act (S. 3663)

Lead Sponsor(s): Sen. Richard Blumenthal (D-CT)

Bill Objective: OFFICAL SUMMARY NOT RELEASED – Bill designed to protect children that utilize internet access. (Mental Health Scope)

Committee(s) Assigned To: Senate Committee, Science and Transportation Committee

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Partisan

National Defense Authorization Act (S.1605) **

Lead Sponsor(s): Sen. Rick Scott (R-FL) and Sen. Alex Padilla (D-CA)

Bill Objective: Authorized the DOD activities and programs for FY 2022 and address other issues. ACA advocating currently for the FY 2021 NDAA to include: Funding for LPMHCs to pursue the Officer of USPHS Commission Corps Officer, and the Army Medical Corps Behavioral Health Unit.

Committee(s) Assigned To: Senate Energy and Natural Resources

Current Status: Law

Type: Bi-Partisan

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Improving Senior's Timely Access to Care Act of 2021 (H.R. 3173/S. 3018)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Suzan DelBane (D-WA), Rep. Mike Kelly (R-PA), Sen. Roger Marshall (R-KS) and Sen. Kristen Sinema (D-AZ)

Bill Objective: Establishes an electronic prior authorization program that meets specific standards, including the ability to provide real-time decisions in response to request for items and routine services.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Ways and Means Committee, House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, Senate Finance Committee

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Bi-Partisan

Ann Westin Legacy Act (H.R.7249/S.3866)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA), Rep. David McKinley (R-WV), Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN) and Sen. Shelley Capito (R-WV)

Bill Objective: Amends the Public Health Service Act to provide education and training on eating disorders for health care providers and communities.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Energy and Commerce, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Bi-Partisan

TRIUMPH for New Moms Act of 2021 (S.2779/H.R. 4217)

Lead Sponsor(s): Sen. Margaret Hassan (D-NH), Sen. Thomas Tillis (R-NC), Rep. Nanette Barragan (D-CA) and Rep. Larry Buschon (R-IN)

Bill Objective: Establish a temporary task force to address Maternal Mental Health needs.

Committee(s) Assigned To: Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP)

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Bi-Partisan

Compacts, Access, and Responsible Expansion for Mental Health Professionals Act (H.R. 6076/S. 4058)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Joe Neguse (D-CO), Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA) and Sen. Angus King (I-ME)

Bill Objective: Establishes grant program to promote interstate licensure compacts for mental health professionals. Incentivize mental health professionals to practices in compact states and develop or maintain interstate compact commissions. (ACA introduced/developed the compact commission language)

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Energy and Commerce Committee

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Bi-Partisan in the House

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Hate Crimes Commission Act of 2021 (H.R. 1834)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Raja Krishnamoorthi (D-IL), Rep. Jefferson Van Drew (R-NJ) and Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY)

Bill Objective: Establishes and U.S. Commission on Hate Crimes.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Judiciary Subcommittee, Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (terrorism and homeland security)

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Bi-Partisan in the House

Student Mental Health Helpline Act of 2021 (H.R. 5235)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Marie Newman (D-IL) and Rep. Chris Stewart (R-UT)

Bill Objective: Authorizes grants to support student mental health and safety helpline through the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Bipartisan in the House

George Floyd Justice in Policing Act of 2021 (H.R. 1280)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Karen Bass (D-CA)

Bill Objective: Addresses policies and issues regarding policing practices and law enforcement accountability.

Committee(s) Assigned To: Senate Judiciary

Current Status: Introduced (7 related bills under different titles in the House and Senate)

Type: Partisan

Immigrants' Mental Health Act of 2021 (H.R.2480/ S. 1100)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and Sen. Jeff Merkley (D-OR)

Bill Objective: Directs Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to take steps to address mental health issues among immigrants and CBP agents and officers. (trauma-informed approach, manage work related stress and psychological issues, identify mental health issues and risk factors in immigrants and refugees.)

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship, House Homeland Security Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation and Operations, Senate Homeland Security and Government Affairs

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Partisan

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Mental Health Matters Act (H.R. 7780)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep Mark DeSaulnier (D-CA) and Rep. Bobby Scot (D-VA)

Bill Objective: Support the behavioral needs of students and youth, invest in school-based behavioral health workforce, and ensure access to mental health and substance use disorder benefits.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Education and Labor

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Partisan

Note: ACA referenced on page 16 pg. the bill. The bill defines the term “student support personnel target ratio” as the ratio of school-based mental health services providers-to-students needed to effectively address the needs of students, including at least 1 school counselor for every 250 students “as recommended by the American School Counselor Association and American Counseling Association”

Emmett Till Antilynching Act (H.R. 55) *

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Bobby Rush (D-IL) and Rep. Louie Gohmert (R-TX)

Bill Objective: Bill makes lynching a federal hate crime offense

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Judiciary

Current Status: Became Law (Related Bill S. 3710)

Type: Bipartisan

COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act (S.937) *

Lead Sponsor(s): Sen. Mazie Hirono (D-HI) and Sen. Bernard Sanders (I-VT)

Bill Objective: Establishes several programs: DOJ expedited review of hate crimes, online hate crime reporting process in states, raise awareness of hate crimes due to COVID-19, creates hate-crime state run hotline, convicted individual must participate in educational classes and/or community services.

Committee(s) Assigned To: None

Current Status: Became Law

Type: Semi-Bipartisan

Public Safety Officer Support Act of 2022 (H.R.6943/S.3635)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. David Trone (D-MD), Rep. Guy Reschenthaler (R-PA) and Sen. Tammy Duckworth (D-IL)

Bill Objective: Under Public Safety Officer’s Benefits Program (PSOB), this bill extends death and disability benefits to certain public safety officers and survivors who suffer from PTSD or acute stress disorder following a stressful situation while on duty and extends benefits to public safety officers who are killed or injured on the line of duty.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Judiciary, Senate Judiciary Committee

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Current Status: Passed the House, Introduced in Senate

Type: Bi-Partisan

Michelle Alyssa Go Act (H.R. 7803)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Carolyn Maloney (D-NY)

Bill Objective: Official Summary Not Released – Bill would amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove the exclusion from medical assistance under the Medicaid program of items and services for patients in an institution for mental diseases, and for other purposes.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House – Energy and Commerce

Current Status: Introduced in House

Type: Partisan

Mental Health Services for Students Act of 2021 (H.R.721/S.1841)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Grace Napolitano (D-CA) and Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN)

Bill Objective: Provides statutory authority for the Project AWARE (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) State Educational Agency Grant Program that would be administered SAMHSA. The program supports school-based mental health services, including screening, treatment, and outreach programs.

Committee(s) Assigned To: Referred to Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Current Status: Passed House, Introduced in Senate

Type: Partisan

Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Reauthorization Act (H.R.7255)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers (R-WA)

Bill Objective: Through FY2027, this bill reauthorizes various suicide prevention programs that focus on youth and young adults. These programs include grants for statewide or tribal youth suicide prevention and early intervention strategies and SUD services for college students, tasked working group to develop a plan to carry out a public education campaign regarding access to and reducing stigma associated with mental health services at institutions of higher education, and suicide prevention resource center that provides training.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Energy and Commerce

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Partisan

Strengthen Kids' Mental Health Now Act of 2022 (H.R.7236)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Anna Eshoo (D-CA)

Bill Objective: Official summary not released – Bill focuses on funding community-based mental and behavioral health services for children and improving Medicaid payment for pediatric patients,

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expanding treatment access, behavioral health needs of pediatric patients, and requiring annual reviews by the Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services of the Medicaid's Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnostic and Treatment program for pediatric mental and behavioral health services.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Energy and Commerce

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Partisan

Anna Westin Legacy Act of 2022 (H.R.7249/S.3686)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Doris Matsui (D-CA) and Sen. Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

Bill Objective: Requires SAMHSA to maintain the National Center of Excellence for Eating Disorders (NCEED) and specifies required activities for NCEED including providing frontline training of health care providers and other professionals.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Energy and Commerce, Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Partisan House, Bi-Partisan Senate

Pursuing Equity in Mental Health Act (H.R.1475/S.1795)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Bonnie Watson Coleman (D-NJ) and Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ)

Bill Objective: Establishes and expands programs through HHS grants to address racial and ethnic disparities in mental health and to reduce stigmas associated with mental health conditions and SUD's.

Committee(s) Assigned To: Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Current Status: Passed House, Introduced in Senate

Type: Partisan

Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act (H.R.5407)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Susan Wild (D-PA)

Bill Objective: Requires the Department of Education to encourage institutions of higher education to develop and implement comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Education and Labor

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Partisan

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Improving Access to Behavioral Health Integration Act (S.4306)

Lead Sponsor(s): Sen. Tina Smith and Sen. Jerry Moran

Bill Objective: Official Summary Not Released – Bill supports integration of behavioral health services into primary care practices and amends the Public Health Service Act.

Committee(s) Assigned To: Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Bi-Partisan

STRONG Veterans Act of 2022 (H.R.6411)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)

Bill Objective: Official Summary Not Released – To amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the mental health care provided by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Veterans' Affairs

Current Status: Introduced

Type: Partisan

Honoring our PACT Act of 2021 (H.R.3967)

Lead Sponsor(s): Rep. Mark Takano (D-CA)

Bill Objective: The bill provides eligibility for Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) medical care, including mental health services and counseling, to veterans who (1) participated in a toxic exposure risk activity (a qualifying activity that requires a corresponding entry in an exposure tracking record system), (2) served in specified locations on specified dates, or (3) deployed in support of a specified contingency operation.

Committee(s) Assigned To: House Veterans' Affairs; Armed Services

Current Status: Passed House, on to Senate Floor

Type: Bi-Partisan

FY23 Appropriations

Summary of Administration Budget Request Supported by ACA

Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA):

- \$55 million for Addressing Emerging Issues and Social Determinants of Maternal Health
- \$10 million to support research and curricula development through Minority-Serving Institutions.
- \$31 million for Implicit Bias Training, and Bias Recognition Study
- \$10 million for screening and Treatment for Maternal Depression
- \$50 million for Behavioral Health Integration in Community-Based Settings

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- \$397.4 million for Behavioral Health Workforce Development program to support behavioral health training.
- \$50 million for a new initiative to support the resiliency, mental health and well-being of health care providers
- \$132.8 million to expand the diversity of the health professions workforce
- \$373.7 to expand access and improve health care in rural communities through a diverse number of programs and initiatives
- \$10 million for Rural Health Clinic Initiative to assist clinics in rural areas where there are no existing behavioral health providers.
- \$44.5 million for Telehealth

Health and Human Service Budget (HHS)

- Supports funding for increasing access to Mental Health Care by including Mental Health Counselors in the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (pg. 81 of Budget)

Every Student Succeeds Act – Title IV-A

Summary of Needs:

- Invest in school-based mental health services and school counseling program to foster safe and health students, provide students with well-rounded education and increase the effective use of technology in our nation's schools.
- Increased funding for resources to states, school districts for student-support services and resources. Recommend schools meet the student to school counselor ratio of 250:1.

U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs and Military

- GAO study that focuses on including LPMHCs as Officer of the USPHS Commission Corps officer and the Army Medical Corps Behavioral Health Unit. Completing this study may provide the ammunition needed for inclusion into the next NDAA.
- Increase funding for the hiring of LPMHCs within the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs
- Increase funding for Mental Health professionals to assist active-duty members, and within the DoD.
- Lifestyle and Career Development: Utilization of counselor's skills with a focus on mental, financial, emotional, and career transition.
- Maternal Mental Health: Funding to improve women's health during and post service. Utilize LPMHCs that are trained in perinatal mental health care to reduce the trajectory of mental health issue.

Note:

“” denoted the bill passed and became law.*

Please utilize www.congress.gov to search for the full text, and additional details for the bills referenced above.

