

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 3771

To establish a multiagency Middle School Mental Health Task Force at the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 31, 2023

Mr. KEAN of New Jersey introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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

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## A BILL

To establish a multiagency Middle School Mental Health Task Force at the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services.

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 “Health Minds for a  
5 Better Future Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. MIDDLE SCHOOL MENTAL HEALTH TASK FORCE.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established a multi-  
8 agency Middle School Mental Health Task Force (referred

1 to in this section as the “Task Force”) at the Department  
2 of Education and the Department of Health and Human  
3 Services to study and survey the resources that are avail-  
4 able to parents and educators to identify and help middle-  
5 school aged students that may be experiencing mental  
6 health issues.

7 (b) MEMBERS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force established  
9 under subsection (a) shall consist of 12 members in-  
10 cluding—

11 (A) the Secretary of Education;

12 (B) the Secretary of Health and Human  
13 Services;

14 (C) a representative of an association of  
15 school administration relating to middle school  
16 or high schools appointed by the Secretary of  
17 Education;

18 (D) a representative of an association  
19 working for childhood mental health appointed  
20 by the Secretary of Education;

21 (E) one school counselor or educator from  
22 each United States region, including—

23 (i) the Northeastern region (consisting  
24 of Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New

1 York, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Con-  
2 necticut, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey);

3 (ii) the Midwestern region (consisting  
4 of Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Illinois, Mis-  
5 souri, Kansas, Nebraska, South Dakota,  
6 North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and  
7 Iowa);

8 (iii) the Western region (consisting of  
9 Montana, Washington, Oregon, California,  
10 Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Ne-  
11 vada, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska, and Ha-  
12 waii); and

13 (iv) the Southern region (consisting of  
14 Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Louisiana,  
15 Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Florida,  
16 South Carolina, North Carolina, Ten-  
17 nessee, Kentucky, West Virginia, Mary-  
18 land, Delaware, and Virginia); and

19 (F) one parent of a middle school student  
20 (from a public or private secondary school)  
21 from each region listed in subparagraphs (A)  
22 through (D) of paragraph (6).

23 (2) APPLICATION PROCESS.—Each member of  
24 the Task Force described in subparagraphs (E) and  
25 (F) of paragraph (1) shall be selected through an

1 annual application process determined by the Sec-  
2 retary of Education.

3 (3) PROHIBITION ON COMPENSATION.—Each  
4 member of the Task Force shall serve on the Task  
5 Force without pay.

6 (4) LENGTH OF SERVICE.—Each member of  
7 the Task Force shall serve on the Task Force for 2  
8 calendar years.

9 (c) CHAIRPERSON.—The Chairperson of the Task  
10 Force shall be elected by a majority vote of the members  
11 of the Commission. The term of office of the Chairperson  
12 may not exceed 2 years.

13 (d) MEETINGS.—

14 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Task Force shall meet  
15 twice a year at the call of the Chairperson or the  
16 majority of the members of the Task Force.

17 (2) QUORUM.—Three-fourths of the members of  
18 the Task Force shall constitute a quorum but a less-  
19 er number may hold hearings.

20 (e) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL.—  
21 The Task Force shall not be entitled to appoint additional  
22 personnel.

23 (f) NO SUBPOENA POWER.—The Task Force may  
24 not issue subpoenas.

1 (g) EXPERTS.—The Task Force may procure tem-  
2 porary and intermittent services under section 3109(b) of  
3 title 5, United States Code, but at rates for individuals  
4 not to exceed the annual rate of basic pay for GS–10 of  
5 the General Schedule.

6 (h) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—To the extent or in the  
7 amounts provided in advance in appropriation Acts, the  
8 Task Force may contract with and compensate govern-  
9 ment and private agencies or persons for certain services  
10 relating to the work of the Task Force.

11 (i) STUDY AND ANNUAL REPORT.—The Task Force  
12 shall—

13 (1) study that resources (including online plat-  
14 forms, professional mental health services providers,  
15 community mental health providers, and any other  
16 tools or resources to address mental health) available  
17 to secondary school educators (including educators  
18 in the middle grades) and parents for helping a stu-  
19 dent who is experiencing mental health issues; and

20 (2) submit to the Committee on Education and  
21 the Workforce of the House of Representatives and  
22 the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and  
23 Pensions of the Senate, an annual report on the re-  
24 sults of the study conducted under paragraph (1).

1           (j) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act, the terms “middle  
2 grades” and “secondary school” have the meanings given  
3 the terms in section 8101 of the Elementary and Sec-  
4 ondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801).

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