

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1716

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2021

Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. KATKO, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MENG, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. STRICKLAND, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Director of the National Institute of Mental Health, to conduct or support research on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, 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 “COVID-19 Mental  
5 Health Research Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESEARCH ON THE MENTAL HEALTH IMPACT OF**  
2 **COVID-19.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
4 Human Services (in this section referred to as the “Sec-  
5 retary”), acting through the Director of the National In-  
6 stitute of Mental Health, shall conduct or support re-  
7 search on the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-  
8 2 or COVID-19.

9 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Research under subsection (a)  
10 may include—

11 (1) research on the mental health impact of  
12 SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19 on health care pro-  
13 viders, including—

14 (A) traumatic stress;

15 (B) psychological distress; and

16 (C) psychiatric disorders; and

17 (2) research on the impact of SARS-CoV-2 or  
18 COVID-19 stressors on mental health over time;

19 (3) research to strengthen the mental health re-  
20 sponse to SARS-CoV-2 or COVID-19, including  
21 adapting to and maintaining or providing additional  
22 services for new or increasing mental health needs;

23 (4) research on the reach, efficiency, effective-  
24 ness, and quality of digital mental health interven-  
25 tions;

1           (5) research on the effectiveness of strategies  
2           for implementation and delivery of evidence-based  
3           mental health interventions and services for under-  
4           served populations;

5           (6) research on suicide prevention; and

6           (7) research on the impact of SARS-CoV-2 or  
7           COVID-19 on the mental health of children and  
8           adolescents.

9           (c) RESEARCH COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall  
10          coordinate activities under this section with similar activi-  
11          ties conducted by national research institutes and centers  
12          of the National Institutes of Health to the extent that  
13          such institutes and centers have responsibilities that are  
14          related to the mental health consequences of SARS-CoV-  
15          2 or COVID-19.

16          (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry  
17          out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated  
18          \$100,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026,  
19          to remain available until expended.

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