

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4744

To establish a grant to provide mental health services and behavioral health services to at-risk youth, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 28, 2021

Mr. CÁRDENAS (for himself and Ms. BASS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

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## A BILL

To establish a grant to provide mental health services and behavioral health services to at-risk youth, 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 “Eliminating Debtor’s  
5 Prison for Kids Act of 2021”.

6 **SEC. 2. YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH GRANT.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 180  
8 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney  
9 General shall carry out a program under which the Attor-  
10 ney General makes grants to eligible States for the pur-

1 pose of providing evidence-based and trauma-informed  
2 mental and behavioral health services to at-risk youth, in-  
3 cluding juveniles in secure detention or correctional facili-  
4 ties in the State.

5 (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
6 under this section, a State shall—

7 (1) certify to the Attorney General that the  
8 laws of the State prohibit a juvenile offender or a  
9 parent or guardian of such a juvenile from being or-  
10 dered to pay probation supervision fees or court ad-  
11 ministrative fees, including the cost of court-ap-  
12 pointed attorneys or public defenders, the cost of  
13 prosecution, or other administrative costs of the  
14 court;

15 (2) certify to the Attorney General that the  
16 laws of the State prohibit a parent or guardian of  
17 a juvenile offender from paying child support or  
18 other costs for detention or post-adjudication place-  
19 ment to the State; and

20 (3) submit to the Attorney General an applica-  
21 tion at such time, in such manner, and containing  
22 such information as the Attorney General may re-  
23 quire.

24 (c) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives a grant  
25 under this section shall use the grant to provide evidence-

1 based and trauma-informed mental and behavioral health  
2 services to at-risk juveniles, including juveniles in secure  
3 detention or correctional facilities in the State.

4 (d) CONTRACTS AND SUBGRANTS.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State may, in using a  
6 grant under this section for purposes authorized by  
7 subsection (c), use all or a portion of that grant to  
8 contract with or make one or more subgrants to one  
9 or more units of local government.

10 (2) USE OF FUNDS.—An entity that receives a  
11 contract or a subgrant under this subsection may  
12 use such funds to provide services or benefits de-  
13 scribed under subsection (c).

14 (e) INFORMATION FOR REPORT.—A State that re-  
15 ceives a grant under this section shall provide to an inde-  
16 pendent criminal justice organization, selected by the At-  
17 torney General, such information as is necessary to com-  
18 plete the report described in section 3.

19 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
20 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
21 \$500,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through 2025.

22 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL REPORT.**

23 (a) INDEPENDENT REPORT.—Not later than 18  
24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, an inde-  
25 pendent criminal justice organization, selected by the At-

1 torney General, shall submit to the Committee on the Ju-  
2 diciary of the House of Representatives and the Com-  
3 mittee on the Judiciary of the Senate a national report  
4 on fines and fees imposed on adults and juveniles in the  
5 criminal justice system, including—

6           (1) information with respect to the monetary  
7           amount of fines and fees imposed, including the  
8           race, ethnicity, tribal affiliation, and other demo-  
9           graphic data of the individuals upon whom such  
10          fines and fees are imposed and the rate at which in-  
11          dividuals are reincarcerated within 1 year of release  
12          from a secure detention facility or a secure correc-  
13          tional facility;

14          (2) a description of each type of service for  
15          which a fee is imposed;

16          (3) a description of each type of charge for  
17          which a fine is imposed;

18          (4) a comparison of the average length of incar-  
19          ceration or detention for individuals who are unable  
20          to pay a fine and the average length of incarceration  
21          or detention for individuals who are able to pay a  
22          fine based on the amount of the fine; and

23          (5) a disclosure of the sum total of fines and  
24          fees collected minus the cost to collect such sum.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
3 \$2,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, which shall remain avail-  
4 able until expended.

5 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) AT-RISK YOUTH.—The term “at-risk youth”  
8 means an individual who—

9 (A) has not attained the age of 21; and

10 (B)(i) is likely to fail academically without  
11 intervention, including an individual who—

12 (I) has a high truancy rate;

13 (II) has withdrawn from school pre-  
14 viously;

15 (III) is not less than 1 year behind  
16 the appropriate grade level for an indi-  
17 vidual of the same age; or

18 (IV) has limited English language  
19 proficiency;

20 (ii) has a history of or is actively using  
21 drugs or alcohol;

22 (iii) is pregnant or a parent;

23 (iv) is a gang member;

24 (v) is in contact with the juvenile justice  
25 system; or

1           (vi) is homeless, has run away from home,  
2           or is in foster care.

3           (2) EVIDENCE-BASED.—The term “evidence-  
4           based” has the meaning given such term in section  
5           103 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Preven-  
6           tion Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11103).

7           (3) JUVENILE OFFENDER.—The term “juvenile  
8           offender” means an individual—

9                   (A) who has not attained the age of 21;  
10           and

11                   (B)(i) against whom a petition is filed for  
12           the adjudication of a delinquency offense under  
13           the laws of a State or the United States; or

14                   (ii) who has been adjudicated delinquent  
15           for a delinquency offense under the laws of a  
16           State or the United States.

17           (4) SECURE CORRECTIONAL FACILITY.—The  
18           term “secure correctional facility” has the meaning  
19           given such term in section 103 of the Juvenile Jus-  
20           tice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34  
21           U.S.C. 11103).

22           (5) SECURE DETENTION FACILITY.—The term  
23           “secure detention facility” has the meaning given  
24           such term in section 103 of the Juvenile Justice and

1 Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C.  
2 11103).

3 (6) STATE.—The term “State” means any  
4 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,  
5 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United  
6 States Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the  
7 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,  
8 and any possession of the United States.

9 (7) TRAUMA-INFORMED.—The term “trauma-  
10 informed” has the meaning given such term in sec-  
11 tion 103 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency  
12 Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11103).

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