

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8386

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish internship programs relating to behavioral health, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2022

Mr. NEGUSE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish internship programs relating to behavioral health, 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. INTERNSHIP PROGRAMS OF DEPARTMENT OF**
4 **VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR BEHAVIORAL**
5 **HEALTH.**

6 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Veterans
7 Affairs shall establish paid pre-doctoral and post-doctoral
8 internship programs for the purpose of training licensed
9 officials to work as covered behavioral health providers.

10 (b) EMPLOYMENT OBLIGATION.—

1 (1) OBLIGATION.—Subject to subparagraph
2 (B), as a condition of participating in an internship
3 program under paragraph (1), the participant shall
4 enter into an agreement with the Secretary of Vet-
5 erans Affairs pursuant to which the participant
6 agrees to work on a full-time basis as a covered be-
7 havioral health provider for a period of a duration
8 that is at least equivalent to the period of partici-
9 pation in such internship program.

10 (2) OTHER TERMS AND CONDITIONS.—An
11 agreement entered into pursuant to subparagraph
12 (A) may include such other terms and conditions as
13 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs may determine
14 necessary to protect the interests of the United
15 States or otherwise appropriate for purposes of this
16 section, including terms and conditions providing for
17 limited exceptions from the employment obligation
18 specified in such subparagraph.

19 (c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 (1) The term “behavioral health provider” in-
21 cludes psychiatry, clinical psychology, social work,
22 counseling, and related fields.

23 (2) The term “licensed official” includes:

24 (A) Licensed Professional Counselor
25 (LPC).

1 (B) Licensed Mental Health Counselor
2 (LMHC).

3 (C) Licensed Clinical Professional Coun-
4 selor (LCPC).

5 (D) Licensed Professional Clinical Coun-
6 selor of Mental Health (LPCC).

7 (E) Licensed Clinical Mental Health Coun-
8 selor (LCMHC).

9 (F) Licensed Mental Health Practitioner
10 (LMHP).

11 (3) The term “covered behavioral health pro-
12 vider” means behavioral health provider who—

13 (A) is an employee of the Department of
14 Veterans Affairs; and

15 (B) whose employment by the Secretary of
16 Veterans Affairs involves the provision of be-
17 havioral health services at VA Medical facilities.

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