

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8822

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the placement of students and licensed professional social workers in public libraries, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 14, 2022

Ms. GARCIA of Texas (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BASS, Mrs. DEMINGS, Ms. DEAN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CORREA, and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Education to carry out a grant program to support the placement of students and licensed professional social workers in public libraries, 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. GRANTS FOR PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS AND**
4 **SOCIAL WORKERS IN PUBLIC LIBRARIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than one year
6 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
7 Education (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”)

1 shall carry out a program under which the Secretary
2 makes grants, on a competitive basis, to institutions of
3 higher education to support the placement of students and
4 licensed professional social workers in public libraries.

5 (b) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
6 under this section, an institution of higher education shall
7 submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in
8 such manner, and containing such information as the Sec-
9 retary may require.

10 (c) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate
11 with the Institute of Museum and Library Services in the
12 development and review of grant applications under this
13 section.

14 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An institution of higher edu-
15 cation that receives a grant under this section shall use
16 the grant to carry out the following activities:

17 (1)(A) to employ one or more licensed profes-
18 sional social workers whom the institution shall seek
19 to place on a full-time basis in public libraries in the
20 geographic region surrounding the institution; or

21 (B) to arrange placements of one or more li-
22 censed professional social workers who are employed
23 by other entities, whom the institution shall seek to
24 place on a full-time basis in public libraries in the
25 geographic region surrounding the institution; and

1 (2) to arrange and fully fund internships and
2 field placements at such libraries for students of the
3 institution who are majoring in social work, includ-
4 ing students pursuing a bachelor's or master's de-
5 gree in social work.

6 (e) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS.—

7 (1) PAYMENT AND SUPERVISION.—An institu-
8 tion of higher education that receives a grant under
9 this section shall—

10 (A) be responsible for the payment and
11 employment-related administration of the social
12 workers placed at public libraries pursuant to
13 subsection (d)(1)(A) and the interns placed at
14 such libraries pursuant to subsection (d)(2);

15 (B) pay a wage of not less than \$15 per
16 hour to each intern serving in a public library
17 pursuant to subsection (d)(2); and

18 (C) ensure that each such intern is super-
19 vised by a licensed professional social worker
20 (who may be a social worker employed by the
21 institution or a social worker otherwise em-
22 ployed at the public library at which the intern
23 serves).

24 (2) DUTIES OF SOCIAL WORKERS.—

1 (A) IN GENERAL.—The duties of a social
2 worker placed at a public library pursuant to
3 subsection (d)(1) shall be to provide library pa-
4 trons with—

5 (i) information on health, nutrition,
6 and other social services for which the pa-
7 tron may be eligible; and

8 (ii) assistance in applying for and ac-
9 cessing such services.

10 (B) LIMITATIONS.—A licensed professional
11 social worker or intern placed at a library pur-
12 suant to subsection (d)—

13 (i) shall not be required to report an
14 alien who is not in lawful immigration sta-
15 tus to U.S. Immigration and Customs En-
16 forcement and may provide such alien with
17 appropriate professional services; and

18 (ii) shall not be required to provide
19 healthcare services directly to library pa-
20 trons, such as the administration of diag-
21 nostic medical tests.

22 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTER.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Education shall
24 establish an evaluation, documentation, dissemination,
25 and technical assistance resource center to provide appro-

1 p r i a t e information, training, and technical assistance to
2 States, political subdivisions of States, federally recog-
3 nized Indian Tribes, tribal organizations, institutions of
4 higher education, State and local educational agencies,
5 and individual students and educators with respect to hir-
6 ing and retaining social workers in libraries.

7 (b) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CENTER.—The center
8 established under subsection (a) shall conduct activities
9 for the purpose of—

10 (1) developing and continuing statewide or trib-
11 al strategies for improving the effectiveness of the
12 social work workforce;

13 (2) studying the costs and effectiveness of li-
14 brary social work programs at institutions of higher
15 education to identify areas of improvement and pro-
16 vide information on relevant issues of importance to
17 State, Tribal, and national policymakers;

18 (3) working with Federal agencies and other
19 State, Tribal, and national stakeholders to collect,
20 evaluate, and disseminate data regarding social work
21 ratios, outcomes and best practices of mental health
22 services, and the impact of expanding the number of
23 social workers within libraries; and

24 (4) establishing partnerships among National,
25 State, Tribal, and local governments, and local edu-

1 cational agencies, institutions of higher education,
2 nonprofit organizations, and State and national
3 trade associations for the purposes of—

4 (A) data collection and dissemination;

5 (B) establishing a library social work work-
6 force development program;

7 (C) documenting the success of library so-
8 cial work methods on a national level; and

9 (D) conducting other activities as deter-
10 mined appropriate by the Secretary of Edu-
11 cation.

12 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) The term “institution of higher education”
15 means an institution of higher education (as defined
16 in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965
17 (20 U.S.C. 1001)) acting through a school of social
18 work within the institution that is accredited by the
19 Council on Social Work Education.

20 (2) The term “licensed professional social work-
21 er” means a social worker who has a master’s or
22 doctoral degree in social work.

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