

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9109

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide support for bereavement services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 30, 2022

Mr. MORELLE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide support for bereavement services, 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 “Grief Resilience Invest-
5 ment and Education Fund Act” or the “GRIEF Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT AND RESEARCH.**

7 Title V of the Public Health Service Act is amended
8 by adding at the end the following new part:

1 **“PART L—BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT AND**
2 **RESEARCH**

3 **“SEC. 598. NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGN ON**
4 **GRIEF LITERACY AND THE IMPORTANCE AND**
5 **AVAILABILITY OF BEREAVEMENT CARE.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish,
7 and begin coordinating and evaluating, a targeted public
8 education campaign that is designed to focus on the indi-
9 vidual and community-wide consequences of loss when
10 grief is unacknowledged and unsupported. Such campaign
11 shall be designed to—

12 “(1) improve the general understanding of grief
13 and loss, including with respect to individuals griev-
14 ing the loss of a family member or loved one to
15 COVID–19; and

16 “(2) encourage help-seeking behaviors relating
17 to grief and loss, including the availability of re-
18 sources in communities throughout the United
19 States.

20 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$50,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through
23 2023.

1 **“SEC. 598A. EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR BEREAVE-**
2 **MENT CARE PROVIDERS AND PEER SUPPORT.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
4 grant program under which the Secretary will award
5 grants to eligible entities to provide grief and bereavement
6 services and expand access to such services.

7 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible to re-
8 ceive a grant under this section if such entity is, or con-
9 tracts with another entity that is, a nonprofit or for-profit
10 organization that has experience administering bereave-
11 ment care programs or training health care providers,
12 such as a hospice, hospital, palliative care provider, or
13 other organization, as determined by the Secretary.

14 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use
15 funds received through a grant awarded under this sec-
16 tion—

17 “(1) to develop and disseminate resources de-
18 signed to help social workers, grief counselors, chap-
19 lains, and other bereavement care providers train
20 others in understanding the basics of grief, evidence-
21 based interventions, culturally appropriate care, and
22 where to locate community grief resources in re-
23 sponse to the COVID–19 pandemic;

24 “(2) to provide training for professionals re-
25 ferred to in paragraph (1) to expand the care such

1 providers furnish during public health emergencies,
2 such as the COVID–19 pandemic; and

3 “(3) provide for training for peer-to-peer be-
4 reavement support.

5 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
6 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
7 \$40,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2023 through
8 2027.

9 **“SEC. 598B. GRIEF AND BEREAVEMENT CARE FOR INDIVID-**
10 **UALS AND FAMILIES.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
12 grant program under which the Secretary will award
13 grants to eligible entities to provide grief and bereavement
14 care to individuals (including individuals who have not yet
15 attained the age of 18) affected by COVID–19 and related
16 deaths.

17 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity is eligible to re-
18 ceive a grant under this section if such entity is a non-
19 profit or for-profit organization that has experience ad-
20 ministering bereavement care programs or training health
21 care providers with respect to grief, such as a hospice, hos-
22 pital, palliative care provider, youth-focused nonprofit or-
23 ganization, a school, or other organization, as determined
24 by the Secretary.

1 “(c) SELECTION.—In selecting recipients of grants
2 under this section, the Secretary shall consider, with re-
3 spect to the eligible entity submitting the application for
4 such a grant—

5 “(1) whether the entity has provided letters of
6 support from other community organizations;

7 “(2) the length of service of the entity in pro-
8 viding evidence-based bereavement care in the com-
9 munity and number of patients served;

10 “(3) the existing structure of the entity for pro-
11 viding care in the community; and

12 “(4) the qualifications of the entity’s providers
13 working in the community.

14 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use
15 funds received through a grant awarded under this section
16 to—

17 “(1) operate grief support groups;

18 “(2) provide psychotherapy, health behavior as-
19 sessment and intervention services, psychological
20 testing or diagnostic examination services, and care
21 coordination and referral services;

22 “(3) purchase, maintain, and operate software
23 and hardware needed for operating remote and vir-
24 tual counseling; and

1 “(4) develop and provide community-based be-
2 reavement and grief services, including individual
3 counseling.

4 “(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary shall,
5 not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of
6 this section, submit to Congress a report on the grant pro-
7 gram under this section. Such report shall include—

8 “(1) the number of patients served by the pro-
9 gram;

10 “(2) the geographic distribution of recipients of
11 such grant and the provision of bereavement care in
12 underserved areas; and

13 “(3) partnerships between such recipients and
14 other community organizations.

15 “(f) FUNDING.—

16 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
17 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
18 this section \$150,000,000 for the period of fiscal
19 years 2023 through 2027.

20 “(2) ALLOCATION.—Of the funds made avail-
21 able to carry out this section for a fiscal year—

22 “(A) 33 percent shall be used for grants to
23 provide grief and bereavement care to individ-
24 uals who have not yet attained the age of 18;
25 and

1 “(B) the remainder shall be used for
2 grants to provide grief and bereavement care to
3 other individuals.

4 **“SEC. 598C. RESEARCH ON COVID-19 AND COMPLICATED**
5 **GRIEF.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
7 the Director of the National Institutes of Health, shall
8 conduct and support research examining the experience of
9 complicated and prolonged grief, and the efficacy of inter-
10 ventions for prevention and treatment, including the
11 unique circumstances of complicated and prolonged grief
12 related to the COVID–19 pandemic and other national
13 emergencies, with the goal of identifying unique needs of
14 individuals seeking help for grief stemming from such
15 emergencies.

16 “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
18 \$10,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2023 through
19 2027.”.

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