

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 645

To require the Attorney General to propose a program for making treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder available to public safety officers, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 2, 2023

Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. BROWN, Mr. HAWLEY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. KENNEDY, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. OSSOFF, Ms. ERNST, and Mr. WARNOCK) introduced the following bill; which was read twice, considered, read the third time, and passed

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## A BILL

To require the Attorney General to propose a program for making treatment for post-traumatic stress disorder and acute stress disorder available to public safety officers, 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 “Fighting Post-Trau-  
5 matic Stress Disorder Act of 2023”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Public safety officers serve their commu-  
2           nities with bravery and distinction in order to keep  
3           their communities safe.

4           (2) Public safety officers, including police offi-  
5           cers, firefighters, emergency medical technicians,  
6           and 911 dispatchers, are on the front lines of deal-  
7           ing with situations that are stressful, graphic,  
8           harrowing, and life-threatening.

9           (3) The work of public safety officers puts them  
10          at risk for developing post-traumatic stress disorder  
11          and acute stress disorder.

12          (4) It is estimated that 30 percent of public  
13          safety officers develop behavioral health conditions  
14          at some point in their lifetimes, including depression  
15          and post-traumatic stress disorder, in comparison to  
16          20 percent of the general population that develops  
17          such conditions.

18          (5) Victims of post-traumatic stress disorder  
19          and acute stress disorder are at a higher risk of  
20          dying by suicide.

21          (6) Firefighters have been reported to have  
22          higher suicide attempt and ideation rates than the  
23          general population.

24          (7) It is estimated that between 125 and 300  
25          police officers die by suicide every year.

1           (8) In 2019, pursuant to section 2(b) of the  
2           Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act  
3           of 2017 (Public Law 115–113; 131 Stat. 2276), the  
4           Director of the Office of Community Oriented Policing  
5           Services of the Department of Justice developed  
6           a report (referred to in this section as the  
7           “LEMHWA report”) that expressed that many law  
8           enforcement agencies do not have the capacity or  
9           local access to the mental health professionals necessary  
10          for treating their law enforcement officers.

11          (9) The LEMHWA report recommended methods  
12          for establishing remote access or regional mental  
13          health check programs at the State or Federal level.

14          (10) Individual police and fire departments generally  
15          do not have the resources to employ full-time  
16          mental health experts who are able to treat public  
17          safety officers with state-of-the-art techniques for  
18          the purpose of treating job-related post-traumatic  
19          stress disorder and acute stress disorder.

20 **SEC. 3. PROGRAMMING FOR POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS DIS-**  
21 **ORDER.**

22          (a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

23                  (1) PUBLIC SAFETY OFFICER.—The term “public  
24          safety officer”—

1 (A) has the meaning given the term in sec-  
2 tion 1204 of the Omnibus Crime Control and  
3 Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10284);  
4 and

5 (B) includes Tribal public safety officers.

6 (2) PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR.—  
7 The term “public safety telecommunicator” means  
8 an individual who—

9 (A) operates telephone, radio, or other  
10 communication systems to receive and commu-  
11 nicate requests for emergency assistance at 911  
12 public safety answering points and emergency  
13 operations centers;

14 (B) takes information from the public and  
15 other sources relating to crimes, threats, dis-  
16 turbances, acts of terrorism, fires, medical  
17 emergencies, and other public safety matters;  
18 and

19 (C) coordinates and provides information  
20 to law enforcement and emergency response  
21 personnel.

22 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 150 days after the date  
23 of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General, acting  
24 through the Director of the Office of Community Oriented  
25 Policing Services of the Department of Justice, shall sub-

1 mit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and  
2 the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Rep-  
3 resentatives a report on—

4           (1) not fewer than 1 proposed program, if the  
5           Attorney General determines it appropriate and fea-  
6           sible to do so, to be administered by the Department  
7           of Justice for making state-of-the-art treatments or  
8           preventative care available to public safety officers  
9           and public safety telecommunicators with regard to  
10          job-related post-traumatic stress disorder or acute  
11          stress disorder by providing public safety officers  
12          and public safety telecommunicators access to evi-  
13          dence-based trauma-informed care, peer support,  
14          counselor services, and family supports for the pur-  
15          pose of treating or preventing post-traumatic stress  
16          disorder or acute stress disorder;

17          (2) a draft of any necessary grant conditions  
18          required to ensure that confidentiality is afforded to  
19          public safety officers on account of seeking the care  
20          or services described in paragraph (1) under the pro-  
21          posed program;

22          (3) how each proposed program described in  
23          paragraph (1) could be most efficiently administered  
24          throughout the United States at the State, Tribal,

1 territorial, and local levels, taking into account in-  
2 person and telehealth capabilities;

3 (4) a draft of legislative language necessary to  
4 authorize each proposed program described in para-  
5 graph (1); and

6 (5) an estimate of the amount of annual appro-  
7 priations necessary for administering each proposed  
8 program described in paragraph (1).

9 (c) DEVELOPMENT.—In developing the report re-  
10 quired under subsection (b), the Attorney General shall  
11 consult relevant stakeholders, including—

12 (1) Federal, State, Tribal, territorial, and local  
13 agencies employing public safety officers and public  
14 safety telecommunicators; and

15 (2) non-governmental organizations, inter-  
16 national organizations, academies, or other entities,  
17 including organizations that support the interests of  
18 public safety officers and public safety telecommu-  
19 nicators and the interests of family members of pub-  
20 lic safety officers and public safety telecommunica-  
21 tors.

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