

SB-26

Providing funds to the public high schools of the United States on a per-pupil basis to bolster a focus on mental health in the public high school system.

IN THE SENATE OF THE AMERICAN LEGION BOYS NATION

Mr. Chadwell of Pennsylvania introduced the following bill;

A BILL

Providing funds to the public high schools of the United States on a per-pupil basis to bolster a focus on mental health in the public high school system.

Be it enacted by The American Legion Boys Nation Senate assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mental Health School Funding Act".

SECTION 2. PROVIDING YEARLY FEDERAL FUNDING TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING.

Recognizing that, per the US Department of Health and Human Services, one in five children and adolescents experience a mental health problem during their school years, and, by teaching the youth in their most impressionable years, they have a higher aptitude to adopt principles of stress-relief and anxiety coping methods which have been proven to hinder suicides and depression. It is prudent to combat these unfortunate facts by increasing mental health funding for US public high schools.

This legislation focuses on yearly per-pupil spending allocating \$100 per student, which, cumulatively per state, would be transferred to the Superintendent of Public Instruction and their respective office, to determine, with a committee of mental health professionals, how best to implement mental health training into their respective schools.

Mental health training for teachers is heavily advised.

With approximately 50% of mental health disorders developing around age 14 and the remaining in later years, the money allotted for mental health funding is to be utilized for public high schools as age 14 generally correlates with the inception of high school for students.

SECTION 3. FUNDING.

The money, applicable to all schools indicated as established public schools under federal jurisdiction are determined on a per-pupil basis. With an estimated number of pupils in the public high school system being 15,400,000, then multiplied by \$100 outlined for each student, the required amount for the legislation is estimated to be \$1,540,000,000. The funds are allocated specifically for mental health resources such as therapists for the school or other mental health efforts.

The funding for the aforementioned required amount would be procured as follows:

With the Department of Health and Human Services reported to be receiving the second-largest amount of federal funding at 21.28% of total US funding and considering that their services are pertinent to mental health, it appears frugal to reallocate the determined number of funds, estimated to be \$1,540,000,000, yearly, towards mental health funding and the resultant training determined by states.

It is projected that by addressing mental health issues at its core, through early education, the frequency of spending in emergency mental health situations will decrease.

Where the respective funds are derived from in the budget of the Department of Health and Human Services is to be analyzed by the administrators in a prudent manner as it appears responsible to presume that they are best suited to assess needs in their department and determine how to reallocate funds.

SECTION 4. DATE OF ENACTMENT.

The respective legislation shall take effect on the day of enactment and be utilized to affect the upcoming school year.