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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R.

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require local educational agencies to include mental health and suicide prevention information on student identification cards, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 to require local educational agencies to include mental health and suicide prevention information on student identification cards, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Raising Awareness for
5 Youth Suicide Prevention Act” or the “RAYS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE PREVENTION IN-**
2 **FORMATION ON STUDENT IDENTIFICATION**
3 **CARDS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subpart 2 of part F of title VIII
5 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
6 (20 U.S.C. 7901 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
7 the following:

8 **“SEC. 8549D. INCLUSION OF MENTAL HEALTH AND SUICIDE**
9 **PREVENTION INFORMATION ON STUDENT**
10 **IDENTIFICATION CARDS.**

11 “(a) REQUIRED INFORMATION.—

12 “(1) ID CARDS.—Each local educational agency
13 that issues identification cards to students in sec-
14 ondary schools shall ensure that such identification
15 cards include contact information for—

16 “(A) the 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline
17 (or an alternative service designated by the Sec-
18 retary under subsection (c));

19 “(B) the Crisis Text Line (or an alter-
20 native service designated by the Secretary
21 under subsection (c)); and

22 “(C) a State or local suicide prevention
23 hotline selected by the agency, if available.

24 “(2) OTHER METHODS.—Each local educational
25 agency that does not issue identification cards to
26 secondary school students shall—

1 “(A) prominently publish the contact infor-
2 mation specified in paragraph (1) on a publicly
3 accessible website of the agency; and

4 “(B) include such information on computer
5 portals and software platforms regularly used
6 by secondary school students.

7 “(b) METHOD OF INCLUSION.—The information re-
8 quired under subsection (a)(1) may be included on identi-
9 fication cards using any method the local educational
10 agency determines appropriate, which may include—

11 “(1) printing the information directly on the
12 cards;

13 “(2) affixing a sticker to the cards that con-
14 tains the information; or

15 “(3) other such methods.

16 “(c) DESIGNATION OF ALTERNATIVE SERVICES.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event a service de-
18 scribed in subparagraph (A) or (B) of subsection
19 (a)(1) becomes unavailable or ceases to operate ef-
20 fectively, the Secretary may designate an alternative
21 service that provides equivalent or comparable men-
22 tal health resources to be included on student identi-
23 fication cards as required under such subsection.

1 “(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 60 days
2 after designating an alternative service under para-
3 graph (1), the Secretary shall—

4 “(A) notify local educational agencies of
5 such designation; and

6 “(B) provide such agencies with the con-
7 tact information for the alternative service.

8 “(d) OPTIONAL INFORMATION.—In addition to the
9 information required under subsection (a), a local edu-
10 cational agency may consider—

11 “(1) including information on additional mental
12 health resources, such as contact information for
13 school counselors or school mental health resources,
14 on student identification cards; and

15 “(2) adding the information described in sub-
16 section (a)(1) to identification cards issued to teach-
17 ers, administrators, and other school personnel.

18 “(e) OUTREACH.—The Secretary, in coordina-
19 tion with the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the
20 heads of other appropriate agencies, shall conduct out-
21 reach and awareness campaigns to inform students, par-
22 ents, school personnel, and the public about the mental
23 health resources described in subsection (a). Such out-
24 reach efforts shall—

1 “(1) include the dissemination of information
2 through school-based programs, websites, social
3 media, and other communication channels; and

4 “(2) provide information in a manner that is
5 accessible to students and community members with
6 physical, developmental, and intellectual disabilities.

7 “(f) APPLICABILITY.—

8 “(1) PHYSICAL ID CARDS.—The requirements
9 of subsection (a)(1) shall apply with respect to stu-
10 dent identification cards issued by local educational
11 agencies for school years beginning after the effec-
12 tive date of this section. Nothing in this section shall
13 be construed to require the modification of a student
14 identification card issued before such effective date.

15 “(2) OTHER INFORMATION.—The requirements
16 of subsection (a)(2) shall apply beginning 60 days
17 after the effective date of this section.

18 “(g) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘local
19 educational agency’ means a local educational agency that
20 receives Federal funds.”.

21 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by
22 subsection (a) shall take effect one year after the date of
23 enactment of this Act.