

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3511

To amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use to establish a grant program for certain undergraduate or graduate students who agree to work as school psychologists, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 20, 2025

Mr. GOTTHEIMER (for himself and Ms. FRIEDMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use to establish a grant program for certain undergraduate or graduate students who agree to work as school psychologists, 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 “Preparing for the Fu-
5 ture Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

2 Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 290dd et seq.) is amended by adding at the
4 end the following:

5 **“SEC. 554. GRANT PROGRAM FOR SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS.**

6 “(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHED.—

7 “(1) PROGRAM AUTHORITY.—Subject to the
8 availability of appropriations under subsection (c),
9 the Assistant Secretary shall pay to each eligible in-
10 stitution such sums as may be necessary to pay to
11 each eligible recipient who files an application and
12 agreement in accordance with subsection (b) a grant
13 for school psychology in the amount of \$8,000 for
14 each year during which such eligible recipient is
15 within the period of eligibility under paragraph (4)
16 at such eligible institution.

17 “(2) PAYMENT METHODOLOGY.—

18 “(A) PREPAYMENT.—Not less than 85
19 percent of any funds provided to an eligible in-
20 stitution under paragraph (1) shall be advanced
21 to such eligible institution prior to the start of
22 each payment period (as such period is deter-
23 mined by the Assistant Secretary) and shall be
24 based upon an amount requested by such insti-
25 tution as needed to pay eligible recipients who
26 receive grants under this section, until such

1 time as the Assistant Secretary determines and
2 publishes in the Federal Register (with an op-
3 portunity for comment) an alternative payment
4 system that provides payments to such institu-
5 tions in an accurate and timely manner, except
6 that this sentence shall not be construed to
7 limit the authority of the Assistant Secretary to
8 place an institution on a reimbursement system
9 of payment.

10 “(B) DIRECT PAYMENT.—Nothing in this
11 subsection shall be interpreted to prohibit the
12 Assistant Secretary from paying directly to an
13 eligible recipient, in advance of the beginning of
14 the academic term, an amount for which such
15 eligible recipient is eligible, in cases in which an
16 eligible institution fails to implement subpara-
17 graph (A).

18 “(C) DISTRIBUTION OF GRANTS TO ELIGI-
19 BLE RECIPIENTS.—Payments under this section
20 shall be made, in accordance with regulations
21 promulgated by the Assistant Secretary for
22 such purpose, in such manner as will best ac-
23 complish the purposes of this section. Any pay-
24 ment allowed to be made by crediting the ac-
25 count of an eligible recipient shall be limited to

1 tuition and fees and, in the case of housing
2 owned by an eligible institution, room and
3 board.

4 “(3) REDUCTIONS IN AMOUNT.—

5 “(A) PART-TIME STUDENTS.—In any case
6 in which an eligible recipient attends an eligible
7 institution on less than a full-time basis (includ-
8 ing an eligible recipient who attends an eligible
9 institution on less than a half-time basis) dur-
10 ing any year, the amount of a grant under this
11 section for which such eligible recipient is eligi-
12 ble shall be reduced in proportion to the degree
13 to which such eligible recipient is not attending
14 on a full-time basis, in accordance with a sched-
15 ule of reductions established by the Assistant
16 Secretary for the purposes of this section, com-
17 puted in accordance with this section. Such
18 schedule of reductions shall be established by
19 regulation and published in the Federal Reg-
20 ister.

21 “(B) NO EXCEEDING COST.—The amount
22 of a grant awarded under this section, in com-
23 bination with Federal assistance and other as-
24 sistance an eligible recipient who is a student
25 may receive, shall not exceed the cost of attend-

1 ance (as defined in section 472 of the Higher
2 Education Act of 1965) of the eligible institu-
3 tion at which such eligible recipient is in at-
4 tendance.

5 “(4) PERIOD OF ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANTS.—

6 “(A) UNDERGRADUATE AND POST-BACCA-
7 LAUREATE STUDENTS.—The period during
8 which an eligible recipient who is an under-
9 graduate or post-baccalaureate student may re-
10 ceive a grant under this section shall be the pe-
11 riod after such eligible recipient has completed
12 half of the required credit hours for a first un-
13 dergraduate baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate
14 course of study being pursued by such eligible
15 recipient at an eligible institution at which such
16 eligible recipient is in attendance, except that
17 the total amount that an eligible recipient may
18 receive under this section for undergraduate or
19 post-baccalaureate study shall not exceed
20 \$16,000.

21 “(B) GRADUATE STUDENTS.—The period
22 during which an eligible recipient who is a grad-
23 uate student may receive grants under this sec-
24 tion shall be the first and second year of a
25 graduate or professional degree program in

1 school psychology that is pursued by such eligi-
2 ble recipient at an eligible institution at which
3 such eligible recipient is in attendance, except
4 that the total amount that an eligible recipient
5 may receive under this section for graduate
6 study shall not exceed \$16,000.

7 “(C) REMEDIAL COURSE; STUDY
8 ABROAD.—Nothing in this subsection shall be
9 construed to exclude from eligibility courses of
10 study which are noncredit or remedial in nature
11 (including courses in English language acquisi-
12 tion) which are determined by the eligible insti-
13 tution at which an eligible recipient is in at-
14 tendance to be necessary to help such eligible
15 recipient be prepared for the pursuit of a first
16 undergraduate baccalaureate or post-bacca-
17 laurate degree or certificate or, in the case of
18 courses in English language instruction, to be
19 necessary to enable such eligible recipient to
20 utilize already existing knowledge, training, or
21 skills. Nothing in this subsection shall be con-
22 strued to exclude from eligibility programs of
23 study abroad that are approved for credit by
24 the home institution at which an eligible recipi-
25 ent is enrolled.

1 “(b) APPLICATIONS; ELIGIBILITY.—

2 “(1) APPLICATIONS; DEMONSTRATION OF ELI-
3 GIBILITY.—

4 “(A) FILING REQUIRED.—The Assistant
5 Secretary shall periodically set dates by which
6 an applicant shall file an application for a grant
7 under this section. Each applicant desiring a
8 grant under this section for any year shall file
9 an application containing such information and
10 assurances as the Assistant Secretary may de-
11 termine necessary to enable the Assistant Sec-
12 retary to carry out the functions and respon-
13 sibilities of this section.

14 “(B) DEMONSTRATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—
15 Each application submitted under subparagraph
16 (A) shall contain such information as is nec-
17 essary to demonstrate that—

18 “(i) if the applicant is an enrolled stu-
19 dent—

20 “(I) such applicant is an eligible
21 student for purposes of section 484 of
22 the Higher Education Act of 1965;
23 and

24 “(II) such applicant—

1 “(aa) has a grade point av-
2 erage that is determined, under
3 standards prescribed by the As-
4 sistant Secretary, to be com-
5 parable to a 3.25 average on a
6 zero to 4.0 scale, except that, if
7 such applicant is eligible for a
8 grant under this section in the
9 first year of a program of under-
10 graduate education, the grade
11 point average of such applicant
12 shall be determined on the basis
13 of the cumulative secondary
14 school grade point average of
15 such student; or

16 “(bb) displayed high aca-
17 demic aptitude by receiving a
18 score above the 75th percentile
19 on at least one of the batteries in
20 an undergraduate, post-bacca-
21 laureate, or graduate school ad-
22 missions test; and

23 “(ii) such applicant has outlined and
24 is carrying out, or plans to carry out, a
25 step-by-step educational plan for how to

1 satisfy any requirements needed to receive
2 a school psychologist credential, if such
3 credential is required, and begin serving as
4 a school psychologist.

5 “(C) EDUCATIONAL PLAN.—The edu-
6 cational plan described in subparagraph (B)(ii)
7 shall include, for an applicant—

8 “(i) the courses such applicant has
9 enrolled in, or plans to enroll in;

10 “(ii) the plan of such applicant to sat-
11 isfy any requirements other than
12 coursework needed to receive a school psy-
13 chologist credential, if such credential is
14 required, and begin serving as a school
15 psychologist; and

16 “(iii) a justification for any under-
17 graduate, post-baccalaureate, or graduate
18 or professional degree program related to
19 school psychology that such applicant is
20 enrolled in or plans to enroll in and for
21 which such applicant is receiving or plans
22 to seek a grant under this section, includ-
23 ing whether such program is needed to re-
24 ceive a school psychologist credential.

1 “(2) AGREEMENTS TO SERVE.—Each applica-
2 tion under paragraph (1) shall contain or be accom-
3 panied by an agreement by the applicant that—

4 “(A) such applicant will—

5 “(i) serve as a full-time school psy-
6 chologist (referred to in this subsection as
7 the ‘service obligation’) in a covered school
8 for a total of not less than 4 academic
9 years within 8 years after completing—

10 “(I) the course of study for
11 which the applicant received a grant
12 under this section; or

13 “(II) for an applicant who re-
14 ceived a grant under this section dur-
15 ing both a period described in sub-
16 section (a)(4)(A) and a period de-
17 scribed in subsection (a)(4)(B), the
18 graduate or professional degree pro-
19 gram for which the applicant received
20 a grant under this section; and

21 “(ii) submit a certification of employ-
22 ment by the chief administrative officer of
23 the covered school in accordance with para-
24 graph (4)(D); and

1 “(iii) receive a school psychologist cre-
2 dential;

3 “(B) in the event that such applicant is de-
4 termined to have failed or refused to carry out
5 such service obligation, the sum of the amounts
6 of any grants received by such applicant under
7 this section will be treated as a loan and col-
8 lected from such applicant in accordance with
9 paragraph (3) and the regulations thereunder;
10 and

11 “(C) contains, or is accompanied by, a
12 plain-language disclosure form developed by the
13 Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the
14 Secretary of Education (with respect to loan re-
15 payment requirements), that clearly describes
16 the nature of the grant award under this sec-
17 tion, the service obligation, and the loan repay-
18 ment requirements that are the consequence of
19 the failure to complete the service obligation.

20 “(3) REPAYMENT FOR FAILURE TO COMPLETE
21 SERVICE.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—In the event that any
23 eligible recipient who receives a grant under
24 this section fails or refuses to comply with the
25 service obligation in the agreement under para-

graph (2), the sum of the amounts of any grants received by such recipient under this section shall, upon a determination of such a failure or refusal in such service obligation, be treated as a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965, and shall be subject to repayment, together with interest thereon accruing from the date of the grant award, in accordance with terms and conditions specified by the Assistant Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, in regulations under this section.

“(B) RECONSIDERATION OF CONVERSION DECISIONS.—

“(i) REQUEST TO RECONSIDER.—In any case where the Assistant Secretary has determined that an eligible recipient who receives a grant under this section has failed or refused to comply with the service obligation in the agreement under paragraph (2) and has converted, in consultation with the Secretary of Education, the grant into a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan in accordance with subpara-

graph (A) (including cases in which such loans have been fully or partially paid), such eligible recipient may request that the Assistant Secretary reconsider such initial determination and may submit additional information to demonstrate satisfaction of such service obligation. Upon receipt of such a request, the Assistant Secretary shall reconsider the determination in accordance with this subparagraph not later than 90 days after the date that such request was received.

“(ii) RECONSIDERATION.—If, in reconsidering an initial determination under clause (i), the Assistant Secretary determines that the reason for such determination was the failure of the eligible recipient who received a grant under this section to timely submit a certification required under paragraph (2)(A)(ii), an error or processing delay by the Assistant Secretary, a change to the covered schools considered eligible for fulfillment of the service obligation, an eligible recipient who received a grant under this section having

1 previously requested to have such grant
2 under this section converted to a loan, or
3 another valid reason determined by the As-
4 sistant Secretary, and that such recipient
5 has, as of the date of the reconsideration,
6 demonstrated that such recipient did meet,
7 or is meeting, the service obligation in the
8 agreement under paragraph (2), the As-
9 sistant Secretary, in consultation with the
10 Secretary of Education, shall—

11 “(I) discharge the Federal Direct
12 Unsubsidized Stafford Loan and rein-
13 state the grant under this section to
14 such recipient;

15 “(II) discharge any interest or
16 fees that may have accumulated dur-
17 ing the period that the grant was con-
18 verted to a Federal Direct Unsub-
19 sidized Stafford Loan;

20 “(III) if such recipient has other
21 loans under part D of title IV of the
22 Higher Education Act of 1965, apply
23 any payments made for the Federal
24 Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan

1 during such period to those other
2 loans;

3 “(IV) if such recipient does not
4 have other loans under such part D,
5 reimburse such recipient for any
6 amounts paid on the Federal Direct
7 Unsubsidized Stafford Loan during
8 such period;

9 “(V) request that consumer re-
10 porting agencies remove any negative
11 item of information from a consumer
12 report due to the conversion of the
13 grant under this section to a loan; and

14 “(VI) use any additional informa-
15 tion provided under clause (i) to de-
16 termine the progress such recipient
17 has made in meeting the service obli-
18 gation.

19 “(iii) EXTENSION OF TIME TO COM-
20 PLETE SERVICE OBLIGATION.—In the case
21 of an eligible recipient who receives a grant
22 under this section whose grant under this
23 section was reinstated in accordance with
24 clause (ii), the Assistant Secretary shall,
25 upon such reinstatement—

1 “(I) extend the time remaining
2 for such recipient to fulfill the service
3 obligation described in paragraph
4 (2)(A) to a period of time equal to—

5 “(aa) 8 years; minus

6 “(bb) the number of full or
7 partial academic years of service
8 as a school psychologist that such
9 recipient completed prior to the
10 reconversion of the loan to a
11 grant under clause (ii), including
12 any years of qualifying service as
13 a school psychologist completed
14 during the period when the grant
15 under this section was in loan
16 status; and

17 “(II) treat any full or partial
18 academic years of service as a school
19 psychologist described in subclause
20 (I)(bb) as years that count toward the
21 service obligation of such recipient
22 (regardless of whether the grant funds
23 under this section were in grant or
24 loan status) if such service otherwise

1 meet the requirements of this sub-
2 section.

3 “(4) ADDITIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE PROVI-
4 SIONS.—

5 “(A) EXTENUATING CIRCUMSTANCES.—

6 The Assistant Secretary shall establish, by reg-
7 ulation, categories of extenuating circumstances
8 under which an eligible recipient who receives a
9 grant under this section who is unable to fulfill
10 all or part of the service obligation of such re-
11 cipient may be excused from fulfilling that por-
12 tion of the service obligation.

13 “(B) COMMUNICATION WITH RECIPI-
14 ENTS.—The Assistant Secretary shall notify
15 each eligible recipient who receives a grant
16 under this section not less than once per cal-
17 endar year regarding how to submit the certifi-
18 cation of employment under paragraph
19 (2)(A)(ii) and the recommendations and re-
20 quirements for submitting such certification
21 under subparagraph (D) of this paragraph.

22 “(C) COVERED SCHOOLS.—The Assistant
23 Secretary shall maintain and annually update a
24 list of covered schools and shall make such list

1 publicly available on the website of the Adminis-
2 tration in a sortable and searchable format.

3 “(D) SUBMISSION OF EMPLOYMENT CER-
4 TIFICATION.—

5 “(i) RECOMMENDED SUBMISSIONS.—

6 The Assistant Secretary shall notify each
7 eligible recipient who receives a grant
8 under this section that the Administration
9 recommends that such recipient submits
10 the certification of employment described
11 in paragraph (2)(A)(ii) as soon as prac-
12 ticable after the completion of each year of
13 service.

14 “(ii) REQUIRED SUBMISSION.—An eli-
15 gible recipient who receives a grant under
16 this section shall be required to submit to
17 the Administration the certification of em-
18 ployment described in paragraph (2)(A)(ii)
19 within a timeframe that would allow such
20 recipient to complete the service obligation
21 of such recipient before the end of the pe-
22 riod of such service obligation.

23 “(iii) NOTIFICATION.—The Assistant
24 Secretary shall notify each eligible recipi-
25 ent who receives a grant under this section

1 of the required submission deadlines de-
2 scribed in this subparagraph.

3 “(iv) ADJUSTMENT OF DEADLINE.—
4 The Assistant Secretary shall adjust the
5 submission deadline described in clause (ii)
6 to account for any extension of the period
7 of the service obligation.

8 “(v) ALTERNATIVE TO CERTIFI-
9 CATION.—The Assistant Secretary shall
10 provide an alternative to the certification
11 of employment described in paragraph
12 (2)(A)(ii) for any eligible recipient who re-
13 ceives a grant under this section who can-
14 not obtain such required certification of
15 employment from the chief administrative
16 officer of the covered school of such recipi-
17 ent because such recipient can demonstrate
18 such covered school is no longer in exist-
19 ence or such covered school refuses to co-
20 operate.

21 “(c) PROGRAM PERIOD; AUTHORIZATION OF APPRO-
22 PRIATIONS.—Beginning on January 1 of the year imme-
23 diately following the year of the date of the enactment of
24 this section, there are authorized to be appropriated to
25 the Assistant Secretary to carry out this section such sums

1 as may be necessary to provide grants to each eligible ap-
2 plicant in accordance with this section.

3 “(d) PROGRAM REPORT.—Not later than 2 years
4 after the date described in subsection (c), and every 2
5 years thereafter, the Assistant Secretary shall prepare and
6 submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
7 and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Edu-
8 cation and Workforce of the House of Representatives a
9 report on grants under this section with respect to the
10 covered schools and students served by eligible recipients
11 who receive grants under this section. Such report shall
12 take into consideration information related to—

13 “(1) the number of such recipients;

14 “(2) the degrees obtained by each such recipi-
15 ent;

16 “(3) the location, including the covered school,
17 local educational agency, and State, where each such
18 recipient is completing or has completed the service
19 obligation agreed to under subsection (b)(2);

20 “(4) the duration of service of each such recipi-
21 ent;

22 “(5) any change in the ratio of school psycholo-
23 gists to students at each such covered school; and

24 “(6) data about any change, beginning on the
25 date that each such recipient begins to carry out the

1 service obligation of such recipient at a covered
 2 school, in student well-being at such covered school,
 3 including, to the maximum extent practicable, any
 4 such change directly attributable to the presence of
 5 such recipient at such covered school.

6 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

7 “(1) COVERED SCHOOL.—The term ‘covered
 8 school’ means a public or other nonprofit private ele-
 9 mentary school or secondary school, which, for the
 10 purpose of that year—

11 “(A) has been determined by the Assistant
 12 Secretary (pursuant to regulations of the As-
 13 sistant Secretary and after consultation with
 14 the State educational agency of the State in
 15 which the school is located) to be a school in
 16 which the ratio of school psychologists to stu-
 17 dents is lesser than 1 to 500; and

18 “(B) is in the school district of a local edu-
 19 cational agency which is eligible in such year
 20 for assistance pursuant to part A of title I of
 21 the Elementary and Secondary Education Act
 22 of 1965.

23 “(2) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
 24 ble institution’ means an institution of higher edu-
 25 cation, as defined in section 102 of the Higher Edu-

1 cation Act of 1965, that the Assistant Secretary de-
2 termines—

3 “(A) provides high quality preparation and
4 professional development services for school
5 psychology, including extensive clinical experi-
6 ence as a part of pre-service preparation;

7 “(B) is financially responsible;

8 “(C) imposes coursework and other re-
9 quirements that enable or prepare, as applica-
10 ble, a student, upon graduation from such insti-
11 tution, to—

12 “(i) receive a school psychologist cre-
13 dential, if such credential is required, and
14 begin serving as a school psychologist; or

15 “(ii) enter into a graduate or profes-
16 sional degree program that imposes
17 coursework and other requirements that
18 enable or prepare, as applicable, such stu-
19 dent, upon graduation, to receive such cre-
20 dential, if required, and begin such service;
21 and

22 “(D) provides supervision and support
23 services to school psychologists, or assistance in
24 the provision of such services, including men-

1 toring focused on developing effective skills and
2 strategies related to school psychology.

3 “(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT.—The term ‘eligible
4 recipient’ means an applicant under subsection
5 (b)(1) that the Assistant Secretary has determined
6 is eligible to receive a grant under this section.

7 “(4) ESEA TERMS.—The terms ‘elementary
8 school’, ‘local educational agency’, ‘secondary
9 school’, and ‘State educational agency’ have the
10 meanings given such terms, respectively, in section
11 8101 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
12 Act of 1965.

13 “(5) NONPROFIT; STATE.—The terms ‘non-
14 profit’ and ‘State’ have the meanings given such
15 terms, respectively, in section 103 of the Higher
16 Education Act of 1965.

17 “(6) POST-BACCALAUREATE.—The term ‘post-
18 baccalaureate’ means a program of instruction for
19 individuals who have completed a baccalaureate de-
20 gree, that does not lead to a graduate degree, and
21 that consists of courses required by a State in order
22 for an eligible recipient to receive a school psycholo-
23 gist credential, except that such term shall not in-
24 clude any program of instruction offered by an eligi-

1 ble institution that offers a baccalaureate degree in
2 school psychology.

3 “(7) SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST CREDENTIAL.—

4 The term ‘school psychologist credential’ means a
5 professional certification or licensing credential that
6 is required for employment as a school psychologist
7 in an elementary school or secondary school in a
8 State.”.

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