

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7994

To establish a grant program to provide schools with opioid overdose reversal drugs, to direct schools receiving Federal funds to report to certain Federal information systems any distribution of an opioid overdose reversal drug, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2026

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To establish a grant program to provide schools with opioid overdose reversal drugs, to direct schools receiving Federal funds to report to certain Federal information systems any distribution of an opioid overdose reversal drug, 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 “Helping Educators Re-
5 spond to Overdoses Act” or the “HERO Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. SCHOOL GRANTS FOR OPIOID OVERDOSE REVER-**
2 **SAL DRUGS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 90 days
4 after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
5 Health and Human Services, acting through the Assistant
6 Secretary for Mental Health and Substance Use (in this
7 section referred to as the “Secretary”), in consultation
8 with the Secretary of Education, shall award grants, on
9 a competitive basis, to eligible entities—

10 (1) to purchase opioid overdose reversal drugs
11 that are approved under section 505 of the Federal
12 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 355); and

13 (2) to develop and implement the educational
14 programming or resources referred to in subsection
15 (b)(2)(C).

16 (b) APPLICATIONS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for a grant
18 under this section, an eligible entity shall submit to
19 the Secretary an application in such form, at such
20 time, and containing such information as the Sec-
21 retary determines appropriate, which shall include
22 the material required under paragraph (2).

23 (2) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An applica-
24 tion submitted by an eligible entity under paragraph
25 (1) shall include the following:

1 (A) A description of how the eligible entity
2 will use a grant received under this section.

3 (B) An assurance that the eligible entity
4 will, in consultation with the local health de-
5 partment, develop and implement—

6 (i) in the case of an eligible entity
7 that is a private school, a comprehensive
8 emergency response plan for the staff of
9 the school; and

10 (ii) in the case of an eligible entity
11 that is a local educational agency, such a
12 plan for the staff of each school that is
13 served by the local educational agency.

14 (C) An assurance that the eligible entity
15 will develop and implement educational pro-
16 gramming or resources (which may include pro-
17 gramming or resources developed by the Sec-
18 retary) to promote student and community
19 knowledge of cardiopulmonary resuscitation
20 (commonly known as “CPR”), drug-use preven-
21 tion and intervention, and emergency responses
22 to drug overdoses.

23 (c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
24 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to any eligible entity

1 that is in a city or county with a high rate of drug
2 overdoses involving opioids.

3 (d) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant awarded under this
4 section shall be for a period of 1 year.

5 (e) REPORTS.—

6 (1) GRANT RECIPIENTS.—Not later than 1 year
7 after the date on which the grant period referred to
8 in subsection (d) ends, the recipient of a grant under
9 this section shall submit to the Secretary a report
10 that contains the following:

11 (A) A description of the use the recipient
12 made of the opioid overdose reversal drugs pur-
13 chased with the grant.

14 (B) A description of the comprehensive
15 emergency response plan referred to in sub-
16 section (b)(2)(B).

17 (C) A description of the educational pro-
18 gramming or resources referred to in subsection
19 (b)(2)(C).

20 (2) SECRETARY.—Not later than 2 years after
21 the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
22 thereafter, the Secretary, in consultation with the
23 Secretary of Education, shall submit to Congress a
24 report that summarizes all information received by

1 the Secretary in the reports referred to in paragraph
2 (1).

3 (f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term “charter
5 school” has the meaning given such term in section
6 4310 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
7 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7221i).

8 (2) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SECONDARY
9 SCHOOL, AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The
10 terms “elementary school”, “secondary school”, and
11 “local educational agency” have the meanings given
12 such terms, respectively, in section 8101 of the Ele-
13 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
14 U.S.C. 7801).

15 (3) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
16 ty” means—

17 (A) a private elementary school or private
18 secondary school; and

19 (B) a local educational agency, including a
20 charter school that is a local educational agen-
21 cy, or a consortium of local educational agen-
22 cies.

1 **SEC. 3. REPORTING TO FEDERAL INFORMATION SYSTEMS**
2 **OF SCHOOL DISTRIBUTION OF OPIOID OVER-**
3 **DOSE REVERSAL DRUGS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Beginning not later than 90 days
5 after the date of enactment of this Act, a covered edu-
6 cational institution receiving Federal funds shall submit
7 a description of any distribution of an opioid overdose re-
8 versal drug by such institution to—

9 (1) the National Emergency Medical Services
10 Information System (commonly known as
11 “NEMSIS”); and

12 (2) the Overdose Detection Mapping Applica-
13 tion Program of the Washington/Baltimore High In-
14 tensity Drug Trafficking Area (commonly known as
15 “ODMAP”).

16 (b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 (1) CHARTER SCHOOL.—The term “charter
18 school” has the meaning given such term in section
19 4310 of the Elementary and Secondary Education
20 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7221i).

21 (2) COVERED EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTION.—
22 The term “covered educational institution” means—

23 (A) a private elementary school or private
24 secondary school; and

1 (B) a local educational agency, including a
2 charter school that is a local educational agen-
3 cy.

4 (3) ELEMENTARY SCHOOL, SECONDARY
5 SCHOOL, AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY.—The
6 terms “elementary school”, “secondary school”, and
7 “local educational agency” have the meanings given
8 such terms, respectively, in section 8101 of the Ele-
9 mentary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20
10 U.S.C. 7801).

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