

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 2446

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategy to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Hispanic and Latino populations, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 24, 2025

Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. GALLEG0, Mr. HEINRICH, and Ms. HIRONO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategy to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Hispanic and Latino populations, 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 “Mental Health for
5 Latinos Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. HISPANIC AND LATINO BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL**
 2 **HEALTH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRAT-**
 3 **EGY.**

4 Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act
 5 (42 U.S.C. 290dd et seq.) is amended by adding at the
 6 end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 554. BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH**
 8 **AND EDUCATION STRATEGY.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
 10 the Assistant Secretary, shall, in coordination with advo-
 11 cacy and behavioral and mental health organizations serv-
 12 ing populations of Hispanic and Latino individuals or
 13 communities, develop and implement an outreach and edu-
 14 cation strategy to promote behavioral and mental health
 15 and reduce stigma associated with mental health condi-
 16 tions and substance abuse among the Hispanic and Latino
 17 populations. Such strategy shall—

18 “(1) be designed to—

19 “(A) meet the diverse cultural and lan-
 20 guage needs of the various Hispanic and Latino
 21 populations; and

22 “(B) be developmentally and age appro-
 23 priate;

24 “(2) increase awareness of symptoms of mental
 25 illnesses common among such populations, taking
 26 into account differences within subgroups, such as

1 gender, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, or
2 ethnicity, of such populations;

3 “(3) provide information on evidence-based, cul-
4 turally and linguistically appropriate and adapted
5 interventions and treatments;

6 “(4) ensure full participation of, and engage,
7 both consumers and community members in the de-
8 velopment and implementation of materials; and

9 “(5) seek to broaden the perspective among
10 both individuals in these communities and stake-
11 holders serving these communities to use a com-
12 prehensive public health approach to promoting be-
13 havioral health that addresses a holistic view of
14 health by focusing on the intersection between be-
15 havioral and physical health.

16 “(b) REPORTS.—Beginning not later than 1 year
17 after the date of the enactment of this section and annu-
18 ally thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant
19 Secretary, shall submit to Congress, and make publicly
20 available, a report on the extent to which the strategy de-
21 veloped and implemented under subsection (a) improved
22 behavioral and mental health outcomes associated with
23 mental health conditions and substance abuse among His-
24 panic and Latino populations.

1 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
2 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2026.”.

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