

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 3486

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance to States on strategies under Medicaid and CHIP to increase mental health and substance use disorder care provider education, training, recruitment, and retention.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2025

Mr. DAINES (for himself and Mr. PETERS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

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## A BILL

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to issue guidance to States on strategies under Medicaid and CHIP to increase mental health and substance use disorder care provider education, training, recruitment, and retention.

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 “Expand the Behavioral  
5 Health Workforce Now Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GUIDANCE TO STATES ON STRATEGIES UNDER**  
2 **MEDICAID AND CHIP TO INCREASE MENTAL**  
3 **HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER**  
4 **CARE PROVIDER EDUCATION, TRAINING, RE-**  
5 **CRUITMENT, AND RETENTION.**

6 Not later than 12 months after the date of enactment  
7 of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services  
8 shall issue non-mandatory guidance to States on strategies  
9 under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social  
10 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) and the Children’s  
11 Health Insurance Program under title XXI of such Act  
12 (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.) to increase education, training,  
13 recruitment, and retention of mental health and substance  
14 use disorder care providers that participate in such pro-  
15 grams, with a focus on improving the capacity of the men-  
16 tal health and substance use disorder care workforce in  
17 rural and underserved areas. Such guidance shall include,  
18 and not be limited to, strategies on how States may utilize  
19 waivers under section 1115 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1315)  
20 and authorities under such titles XIX and XXI for such  
21 purposes.

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