

S. 4747, Investing in Kids' Mental Health Now Act

Section-by-Section Summary

Introduced by Senator Rob Portman, R-Ohio, and Senator Bob Casey, D-Pa.

Sec. 1: Short Title – S. 4747, the Investing in Kids' Mental Health Now Act

Section 2: Table of Contents

Section 3: Payment Rate Increase for Pediatric Behavioral Health Services

- If a state increases Medicaid payment rates for pediatric mental health services between 1% and 9%, the federal government will cover the increase with a 100% match for one year beginning no later than six months after enactment.
- A state must choose at least 10 of the services listed. Additionally, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) may designate additional behavioral health services to include.

Section 4: Guidance to States on Supporting Mental, Emotional and Behavioral Health Services and on the Availability of Telehealth Under Medicaid

- Directs the Secretary of HHS to issue guidance to states on how to expand mental, emotional and behavioral health services covered by state plans. The report must describe best practices, including those related to service provision for underserved communities, addressing the mental health needs of children with medical complexities and effective policies for recruitment and retention of providers.
- Requires the Secretary of HHS to issue guidance to states on best practices to enhance the availability of telehealth services under state plans, including streamlining provider licensing, credentialing and enrollment with respect to services furnished across state lines, delivering audio-only services and expanding the originating site requirement.

Section 5: Ensuring Children Receive Timely Access to Care

- Directs the Secretary of HHS to provide guidance to states on existing flexibilities for hospitals and other providers to enhance their capacity to provide pediatric crisis care for children experiencing mental health crises or otherwise in need of intensive mental, emotional or behavioral health services.
- Requires HHS to deliver a report to Congress on regulatory and legal barriers which inhibit the ability of children's hospitals and other providers across the continuum of care to repurpose space, beds and staff to meet pediatric behavioral health needs in their communities, including intermediate level care or partial hospitalization, and to identify solutions that enhance flexibility for providers to expand care capacity.

For additional information, please contact [Elizabeth Brown](#), Vice President, Federal Affairs.