

Health Care Capacity for Pediatric Mental Health Act (S. 4472)

Introduced by Senators Bob Casey, D-Pa., and Bill Cassidy, R-La.

Sec. 1: Short Title – Health Care Capacity for Pediatric Mental Health Act

Section 2: Programs to Support Pediatric Mental, Emotional, Behavioral, and Substance Use Disorder Care.

- **Program to Support Pediatric Mental, Emotional, Behavioral and Substance Use Disorder Health Care Integration and Coordination**

Creates a new Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) program to fund grants to eligible health care providers, hospitals and clinics to engage in activities to enhance the delivery of community-based mental and behavioral health services for children and adolescents that are trauma-informed, culturally sensitive and developmentally appropriate, and to support pediatric behavioral health care integration and coordination.

- **Pediatric Mental, Emotional, Behavioral and Substance Use Disorder Health Workforce Training Program**

Authorizes a new HRSA program focused on training the pediatric behavioral health workforce. Grants will support evidence-based training to enhance the skills of the existing pediatric health care workforce to deliver trauma-informed, culturally sensitive, developmentally appropriate pediatric mental, emotional, behavioral, or substance use disorder health services.

Requires reporting from award recipients on the activities conducted with grant funds and a report to Congress from HHS on the activities and projects funded by this program, as well as their outcomes and opportunities for improvement.

Section 3: Assistance for Modernization of Pediatric, Mental, Emotional, Behavioral and Substance Use Disorder Health Care Infrastructure

- **Increasing Federal Investment in Pediatric Mental, Emotional, Behavioral and Substance Use Disorder Health Services.**

Creates a new HRSA grant program to develop and strengthen critical pediatric mental health infrastructure and address gaps in the continuum of care for children, including through the construction of new sites of care, modernization of existing facilities, investment in technology to facilitate telehealth. Funds can be used to expand capacity to deliver intensive outpatient services, partial hospitalization programs, day programs, walk-in crisis assessment and other services which prevent hospitalization or support children as they transition out of inpatient psychiatric care.

Requires reporting from award recipients on the activities conducted with grant funds and a report to Congress from HHS on the activities and projects funded by this program, as well as their outcomes and opportunities for improvement.