

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To require guidance to improve access to mental health and substance use prevention services for children, adolescents, and young adults.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. BUTLER (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on

A BILL

To require guidance to improve access to mental health and substance use prevention services for children, adolescents, and young adults.

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 “Prevention Services
5 for Youth Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. IMPROVING ACCESS TO A CONTINUUM OF PREVEN-**
7 **TION SERVICES.**

8 (a) GUIDANCE.—Not later than July 1, 2026, the
9 Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred to in

1 this section as the “Secretary”), in coordination with the
2 Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
3 Services, the Assistant Secretary for Mental Health and
4 Substance Use, the Administrator of the Administration
5 for Children, Youth, and Families, and the United States
6 Preventive Services Task Force, shall issue guidance to
7 States, political subdivisions of States, and Indian Tribes
8 or Tribal organizations (as such terms are defined in sec-
9 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Education As-
10 sistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) regarding services pro-
11 vided under the Medicaid program under title XIX of the
12 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396 et seq.) and the Chil-
13 dren’s Health Insurance Program under title XXI of such
14 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397aa et seq.) (referred to in this section
15 as “CHIP”) that includes the following:

16 (1) Provides, in consultation with health care
17 providers and stakeholders with expertise in mental
18 health and substance use disorder, recommendations
19 for an effective continuum of mental health and sub-
20 stance use disorder prevention services for children,
21 adolescents, and young adults that—

22 (A) includes State educational agencies
23 and local educational agencies (as such terms
24 are defined in section 8101 of the Elementary
25 and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20

1 U.S.C. 7801)), juvenile justice settings, behav-
2 ioral health treatment programs, behavioral
3 health providers, youth development programs,
4 Tribal organizations (as defined in section 4 of
5 the Indian Self-Determination and Education
6 Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)) and Urban
7 Indian organizations (as defined in section 4 of
8 the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25
9 U.S.C. 1603)), and other entities as the Sec-
10 retary determines appropriate; and

11 (B) promotes access to mental health and
12 substance use disorder prevention services for
13 children, adolescents, and young adults.

14 (2) Outlines, but does not limit, the Federal au-
15 thorities through which States may finance and en-
16 hance under the Medicaid program and CHIP the
17 availability of mental health and substance use dis-
18 order prevention services for children, adolescents,
19 and young adults.

20 (3) Identifies how States, through the Medicaid
21 program and CHIP, may support access to mental
22 health and substance use disorder prevention serv-
23 ices that are responsive to the needs of children,
24 adolescents, young adults, and families, including
25 through—

- 1 (A) health services initiatives of CHIP;
2 (B) evidence-based peer support services;
3 (C) adverse childhood experiences mitiga-
4 tion and early intervention initiatives; and
5 (D) the involvement of youth in the imple-
6 mentation and development of such initiatives.

7 (4) Identifies culturally competent policies and
8 practices to meet the need for mental health and
9 substance use disorder prevention services with re-
10 spect to diverse child, adolescent, and young adult
11 populations, including urban and rural communities,
12 racial and ethnic populations, individuals with dis-
13 abilities, and other populations as the Secretary de-
14 termines appropriate.

15 (5) Describes best practices for coordinating
16 Medicaid and CHIP funding with other payors and
17 sources of Federal funding for mental health and
18 substance use disorder prevention services.

19 (6) Identifies best practices for measuring the
20 effectiveness of community-based mental health and
21 substance use disorder prevention services for chil-
22 dren, adolescents, and young adults.

23 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall
24 provide technical assistance to States under the Medicaid

- 1 program and CHIP for purposes of carrying out activities
- 2 pursuant to this section.