



FACT SHEET

House Committee on Education and Labor
Chairman Robert C. "Bobby" Scott

Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act (H.R. 5407)

Since the start of the pandemic, campus counseling centers have responded to an [increased demand](#) for student mental health services with limited funding, staff and resources. In a campus-wide survey conducted by [Penn State University](#), roughly 94 percent of students seeking mental health services reported that COVID-19 negatively impacted at least one aspect of life, with mental health (72 percent), motivation or focus (68 percent), loneliness or isolation (67) and academics (66 percent) as the most frequently affected areas. According to the CDC, there has been an [87 percent increase](#) in suicide attempts among females aged 15-23 since 2007 and suicide is a [leading cause of death](#) for young adults ages 10-34. As mental health concerns continue to increase, lack of access to resources remains a significant barrier for students seeking mental health care on college campuses.

The [Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act](#) (H.R. 5407) is bipartisan legislation, led by Representative Wild (PA- 07). It encourages institutions of higher education (IHEs) to develop comprehensive mental health and suicide prevention plans to better support the mental health needs of college students.

The Enhancing Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Through Campus Planning Act:

- Directs the Department of Education to encourage IHEs to develop and implement evidence-based comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans;
- Directs the Department of Education to align programs with guidance from the Suicide Prevention Resource Center and incorporate existing mental health programs from the *21st Century Cures Act* and the *Garrett Lee Smith Memorial Act*;
- Encourages the Department to work in conjunction with state agencies, nonprofit organizations, and stakeholders to develop these programs; and
- Requires the Department to report their efforts one year and three years after enactment.