

## Workforce Shortage

Increasing Access to Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

### Issue:

Meeting mental health needs of America's youth by increasing number of practicing child and adolescent psychiatrists.

- **Every state has shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists.** Most U.S. counties have none.
- Fewer than 8,000 child and adolescent psychiatrists practice nationally, and **estimates place U.S. need at 30-48,000.**
- **Loan relief for mental health professionals, including child and adolescent psychiatrists,** would begin to address chronic shortages.
- **One approach** would repay up to 1/6 of student debt per mental health professional who practices in a medically underserved area, for up to 6 years. Limit \$250,000.
- **Another approach** would repay eligible medical student debt for mental health professional shortage area service for up to 3 years at \$35,000/year

### Congressional Request:

Please cosponsor H.R. 3150 or S. 1578, **“Mental Health Professionals Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act of 2021,”** by Reps. Katko (R-NY), Napolitano (D-CA), and Sens. Smith (D-MN) and Murkowski (R-AK). Support funding **Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment Program** at \$50 million

## Mental Health In Schools

Improving Mental Health Services for Students

### Issue:

Getting mental health services to students, K-12, to address unmet need and reduce stigma

- Students spend 1/3 of their time at school, in-person or virtually, and **mental illness will impact 20%.**
- By the end of high school, 1 of 5 students will have had at least one episode of depression.
- Many **schools are woefully ill-equipped to meet student mental health needs.**
- **Expanding SAMHSA pilot school** programs would increase mental health services for students, grades K-12.
- Existing **Project AWARE** (Advancing Wellness and Resiliency in Education) State Education Agency Grants would be supplemented under bill.
- **Up to one-hundred, 5-year grants of \$2M/school** would target depression, suicide risk, and other mental health conditions.

### Congressional Request:

Thank you to House Members who passed H.R. 721, **“Mental Health Services for Students Act of 2021”** by Reps. Napolitano (D-CA), Katko (R-NY) on May 12, 2021.

Please co-sponsor companion bill S. \_\_\_\_, sponsored by Sen. Smith (D-MN)

## Mental Health Equity in BIPOC Communities

Providing Equitable Mental Health Care in Minority Communities

### Issue:

Removing systemic barriers to mental health services for Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) communities

- Minorities are less likely to receive mental health treatment due to **lack of access to services** and cultural stigma
- Covid-19 and continuing racial injustices have exposed long-standing, deeply rooted **mental health treatment disparities** among communities of color
- **Inequities in mental health treatment in BIPOC communities must be addressed, especially for children and adolescents**
- Legislation is needed to better target resources and mental health treatments
- Require state Community Mental Health Services Block Grants (1) to **report service inequities** within **BIPOC communities** (2) **collect data on outreach and hiring of BIPOC mental health professionals,** and (3) **train on culturally and linguistically responsive services**

### Congressional Request:

Please co-sponsor H.R. 1331, **“Strengthening Mental Health Supports for BIPOC Communities Act,”** by Rep. Cardenas (D-CA) and seek a Senate companion bill, S. \_\_\_\_