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. ___