

ISSUE

There are not enough child and adolescent psychiatrists to meet the growing demand for mental health subspecialty care for children and adolescents in the United States.

BACKGROUND

- 13-20% of US children have been diagnosed with a mental disorder; 15-25% of US children with a psychiatric disorder receive specialty care.
- The number of adolescents reporting poor mental health is increasing; 44% increase in youth who reported making a suicide plan since 2009.
- There are 14 child and adolescent psychiatrists for every 100,000 children in the United States; estimated need is 47 child and adolescent psychiatrists for every 100,000 children in the United States.
- 91% of U.S. counties have a severe shortage of child and adolescent psychiatrists.
- Child and adolescent psychiatrists complete four years of medical school, four years of residency, and a two-year fellowship, often incurring up to \$300,000 in student loan debt.

SOLUTIONS

- Investments in programs that incentivize physicians to specialize in child and adolescent psychiatry would build a child and adolescent psychiatry workforce sufficient to meet an increasing demand for pediatric mental health care.
- Student loan debt relief is an incentive strategy that encourages more medical students to pursue careers in child and adolescent psychiatry and enables new and existing psychiatrists to practice in areas currently underserved by specialty medical providers.

CONGRESSIONAL REQUEST

Support student loan repayment programs for pediatric mental health providers, including child and adolescent psychiatrists.

HOUSE: *Support H.R. 3150, introduced by Reps. John Katko (R-NY) and Grace Napolitano (D-CA), "Advance the Mental Health Professional Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act."*

SENATE: *Support S. 1578, introduced by Sens. Tina Smith (D-MN) and Lisa Murkowski (R-AK), "Advance the Mental Health Professional Workforce Shortage Loan Repayment Act."*

H.R. 3150/S.1578 would:

- *Require the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to establish a loan repayment program for mental health professionals, including child and adolescent psychiatrists, who work in designated workforce-shortage areas.*
- *Authorize up to \$250,000 in loan repayment for up to six years of full-time employment or one-sixth of an individual's eligible loans for each year of service.*