

Support Mental Health Services for Students

Become a Cosponsor of H.R. 3713, the Mental Health Services for Students Act

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118th Congress supporting organizations (44): [Mental Health Liaison Group \(42 Mental Health Organizations\)](#), [National Education Association](#), American Federation of Teachers

Dear Colleague:

We respectfully request your cosponsorship of H.R. 3713, the Mental Health Services for Students Act, which would provide \$300 million in funding for public schools across the country to partner with local mental health professionals to establish on-site mental health services for students. H.R. 3713 expands the scope of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Service Administration's Project AWARE program, which will also set guidelines and measure the outcomes of the funded grantees.

Mental illness affects millions of students across America, with 1 out of 5 suffering from some form. Most go untreated because they either cannot afford care, lack access, or do not know where to turn for help. Investing in preventive mental health care could give these young people a better future. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, without access to mental health care, students with mental disorders can have increased problems at home, in school, and in forming friendships, and it can interfere with their healthy development into adulthood.

H.R. 3713 is a much-needed part of the solution. By providing increased federal funding for mental health services in our schools, this bill will help students with preventable mental illnesses get access to the services they need. The lack of school-based mental health services has gone on long enough, and we must give our young people access to the services they deserve.

This legislation is based on the successful Youth Suicide Prevention Program in Los Angeles County, currently operating in 35 local schools. The program has proven to be tremendously successful in helping students overcome mental health issues and improving quality of life for them and their families, and H.R. 3713 seeks to expand this model nationwide to provide more students with the benefits of on-site mental health care.

H.R. 3713 is nearly identical to H.R. 721, the Mental Health Services for Students Act, which was passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in May 2021, and included in the June 2022 House-passed H.R. 7666, the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and Well-Being Act. Only one change has been made to increase funding from \$130 million to \$300 million. In the 117th Congress, the bill had 86 bipartisan cosponsors and the support of over 50 mental health organizations and teacher unions.

Please join us in continuing to fight to remove the stigma of mental health treatment and to provide our students with the support and services they need to thrive.

For any questions or to cosponsor H.R. 3713, please contact Joseph Ciccone (Rep. Napolitano) at Joseph.Ciccone@mail.house.gov or Jacqueline Collie Baggett (Rep. Fitzpatrick) at Jacqueline.Collie@mail.house.gov.

Warm regards,

Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress

Brian Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress