

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To provide funding to the Bureau of Prisons, States, and localities to carry out mental health screenings and provide referrals to mental health care providers for certain corrections officers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Ms. DUCKWORTH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To provide funding to the Bureau of Prisons, States, and localities to carry out mental health screenings and provide referrals to mental health care providers for certain corrections officers.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Corrections Officer
5 Blake Schwarz Suicide Prevention Act of 2026”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7 In this Act:

1 (1) **ADVISORY BOARD.**—The term “Advisory
2 Board” means the Advisory Board established pur-
3 suant to section 5(a).

4 (2) **CORRECTIONS OFFICER.**—The term “cor-
5 rections officer” means an officer or employee—

6 (A) of any detention facility, including a
7 prison or jail, operated by, or under contract
8 with, a Federal agency; and

9 (B) the job responsibilities of whom in-
10 clude providing for the custody of incarcerated
11 individuals.

12 (3) **ELIGIBLE DETENTION CENTER.**—The term
13 “eligible detention center” means—

14 (A) any prison or jail administered by the
15 Bureau of Prisons or a State; and

16 (B) any jail administered by a State or lo-
17 cality.

18 (4) **JAIL; PRISON.**—The terms “jail” and “pris-
19 on” have the meanings given those terms in section
20 10 of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (34
21 U.S.C. 30309).

22 (5) **JAIL OR PRISON ADMINISTRATOR.**—The
23 term “jail or prison administrator” means an indi-
24 vidual who has been appointed to a supervisory posi-

1 tion in a Federal, State, or local jail or prison by the
2 Federal Government, a State, or a locality.

3 (6) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The term
4 “law enforcement officer” means an officer of an en-
5 tity administered by the Federal Government, a
6 State, or locality that exists primarily to prevent and
7 detect crime and enforce criminal laws.

8 (7) LOCALITY.—The term “locality” means any
9 city, county, township, town, borough, parish, vil-
10 lage, or other general purpose political subdivision of
11 a State.

12 (8) MENTAL HEALTH CARE CENTER.—The
13 term “mental health care center” means a facility,
14 such as a hospital or private clinic, at which not less
15 than 1 mental health care provider offers mental
16 health services.

17 (9) MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER.—The
18 term “mental health care provider” means

19 (A) a fully-licensed professional or group
20 of professionals who—

21 (i) diagnoses mental health conditions;

22 (ii) provides mental health treatment;

23 and

24 (iii) operates near an eligible deten-

25 tion center; and

1 (B) includes a professional or group de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (A) that provides men-
3 tal health services at a hospital or private clinic.

4 (10) MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING SURVEY.—
5 The term “mental health screening survey” means a
6 mental health screening survey developed and ad-
7 ministered by a State or locality pursuant to section
8 3(d)(1).

9 (11) MENTAL ILLNESS.—The term “mental ill-
10 ness” means a mental, behavioral, or emotional dis-
11 order that—

12 (A) results in serious functional impair-
13 ment; and

14 (B) substantially interferes with or limits
15 major life activities.

16 (12) STATE.—The term “State” means any
17 State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
18 the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
19 lands, Guam, American Samoa, and the Common-
20 wealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

21 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM.**

22 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after
23 the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General
24 shall establish a grant program to award grants to States
25 and localities to—

1 (1) implement and administer mental health
2 screenings to corrections officers at eligible detention
3 centers; and

4 (2) as applicable, refer corrections officers de-
5 scribed in paragraph (1) to mental health care pro-
6 viders.

7 (b) APPLICATION.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State or locality seeking a
9 grant under this section shall submit to the Attorney
10 General an application at such time, in such man-
11 ner, and containing such information as the Attor-
12 ney General may reasonably require.

13 (2) CONTENTS.—A State or locality submitting
14 an application under paragraph (1) shall include in
15 the application—

16 (A) a description of and a plan for the use
17 of amounts from a grant under this section, as
18 described in subsection (c); and

19 (B) an assurance that the State or locality
20 will hire a mental health liaison staff member
21 to coordinate among—

22 (i) eligible detention centers;

23 (ii) mental health providers;

24 (iii) the Advisory Board; and

1 (iv) the outreach team of the State or
2 locality established pursuant to subsection
3 (e).

4 (c) ELIGIBLE PROJECTS.—A State or locality receiv-
5 ing a grant under this section may use amounts from the
6 grant only for the following:

7 (1) To develop and administer the mental
8 health screening survey.

9 (2) To develop any technology necessary for an
10 eligible detention center to provide the mental health
11 screening survey.

12 (3) To hire any staff necessary for an eligible
13 detention center to provide the mental health screen-
14 ing survey.

15 (4) To establish an outreach team pursuant to
16 subsection (e).

17 (5) To pay the salaries or overtime pay of mem-
18 bers of the mental health outreach team established
19 pursuant to subsection (e), including by providing
20 direct funding to an eligible detention center to com-
21 pensate staff members of the mental health outreach
22 team.

23 (d) BRIEF MENTAL HEALTH SCREENING SURVEY.—

24 (1) IN GENERAL.—A State or locality receiving
25 a grant under this section shall develop or adopt a

1 mental health screening survey, and administer a
2 mental health screening survey, that—

3 (A) is for corrections officers of eligible de-
4 tention centers;

5 (B) may be based on the questions and
6 content of—

7 (i) the standard mental health screen-
8 ing of the Employee Assistance Program of
9 the Federal Bureau of Prisons; or

10 (ii) the initial mental health screening
11 standard of the Bureau of Prisons;

12 (C) seeks to identify mental illnesses, in-
13 cluding schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and
14 major depression;

15 (D) asks an individual about—

16 (i) the symptoms of mental illness the
17 individual may be experiencing or has ex-
18 perience; and

19 (ii) any prior use of mental health-re-
20 lated medications or inpatient care;

21 (E) identifies the place of residence of an
22 individual;

23 (F) is administered by a trained staff
24 member at the applicable eligible detention cen-
25 ter to all corrections officers; and

1 (G) is anonymous and confidential.

2 (2) REFERRAL.—

3 (A) NOTIFICATION.—If the responses of a
4 correctional officer to the mental health screen-
5 ing survey indicate mental illness, the trained
6 staff member administering the survey shall im-
7 mediately notify the applicable mental health
8 outreach team established pursuant to sub-
9 section (e).

10 (B) ACTION BY OUTREACH TEAM.—Upon
11 receiving a notification of a correctional officer
12 with a potential mental illness under subpara-
13 graph (A), the applicable mental health out-
14 reach team established pursuant to subsection
15 (e) shall—

16 (i) refer the correctional officer to a
17 local mental health care provider for—

18 (I) further assessment and out-
19 reach; and

20 (II) if necessary, admission to a
21 mental health care center; and

22 (ii) support the correctional officer in
23 re-establishing ties with a mental health
24 provider.

1 (e) OUTREACH TEAM.—A State or locality receiving
2 a grant under this section shall establish a mental health
3 outreach team composed of—

4 (1) mental health care providers;

5 (2) if applicable, staff from an eligible detention
6 center; and

7 (3) a mental health liaison staff member that
8 oversees the mental health outreach team.

9 **SEC. 4. BUREAU OF PRISONS.**

10 Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment
11 of this Act, the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall—

12 (1) establish a program to develop and admin-
13 ister mental health surveys meeting the requirement
14 of mental health screening surveys described in sec-
15 tion 2(d)(1) to corrections officers of the Bureau of
16 Prisons;

17 (2) establish and maintain an outreach team
18 meeting the requirements of a mental health out-
19 reach team under section 2(e) to refer corrections
20 officers to mental health care providers, as appro-
21 priate; and

22 (3) submit to the Advisory Board a plan for the
23 implementation of the program described in para-
24 graph (1).

1 **SEC. 5. ADVISORY BOARD ON PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION.**

2 (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

3 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 60 days after
4 the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney Gen-
5 eral shall establish an Advisory Board to manage
6 and administer the grant program under section 3.

7 (2) DUTIES.—The Advisory Board shall have
8 responsibility for the following:

9 (A) Evaluating and approving the plans
10 submitted by a State or locality under section
11 3(b)(2)(A).

12 (B) Ensuring that amounts from a grant
13 under section 3 are used in accordance with
14 section 3(c).

15 (C) Monitoring plans submitted by the Bu-
16 reau of Prisons in accordance with section 4(3)
17 and advise the Attorney General on compliance
18 to ensure that the Bureau of Prisons uses
19 amounts appropriated to the Bureau of Prisons
20 to carry out section 4.

21 (D) Providing technical assistance to a
22 State or locality to help with the implementa-
23 tion and administration of mental health
24 screening and referral programs established by
25 States and localities receiving a grant under
26 section 3;.

1 (E) Creating a working group of mental
2 health care providers, jail or prison administra-
3 tors, law enforcement officers, and operators of
4 existing mental health screening and referral
5 programs to share best practices on how to cre-
6 ate and implement mental health screening and
7 referral programs that have the largest impact
8 on reducing crime rates and improving employ-
9 ment and wage rates for individuals released
10 from prison or jail.

11 (F) Working in coordination with mental
12 health outreach teams established pursuant to
13 section 3(e) to ensure that the grant program
14 under section 3 operates in accordance with
15 that section.

16 (G) Determining whether a State or local-
17 ity receiving a grant under section 3 is not com-
18 plying with the requirements of that section.

19 (H) Mandating necessary changes for
20 States and localities not complying with the re-
21 quirements of section 3 and reducing grant
22 funding to those States and localities if the
23 States and localities do not make those
24 changes.

1 (b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Advisory Board
2 shall—

3 (1) provide technical assistance to—

4 (A) the States and localities receiving a
5 grant under section 3 in carrying out the re-
6 quirements of the grant; and

7 (B) the Director of the Bureau of Prisons
8 in carrying out the requirements under section
9 4; and

10 (2) identify evidence-backed models for the ad-
11 ministration of mental health screening and referral
12 programs that the Bureau of Prisons, States, and lo-
13 calities can look to when designing their own pro-
14 grams.

15 (c) MEMBERSHIP.—

16 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall
17 appoint members to serve on the Advisory Board
18 who have expertise in—

19 (A) designing and administering employee
20 mental health screenings and providing mental
21 health referrals for employees;

22 (B) mental health care within prisons or
23 jails; or

1 (C) mental health program evaluation
2 using rigorous experimental and quasi-experi-
3 mental statistical methods.

4 (2) NUMBER OF MEMBERS.—The Attorney
5 General—

6 (A) shall appoint to the Advisory Board
7 not less than 3 members; and

8 (B) in addition to the members required
9 under subparagraph (A), may appoint to the
10 Advisory Board as many members as the Attor-
11 ney General determines appropriate.

12 **SEC. 6. SAFE HARBOR.**

13 A State or locality receiving a grant under section
14 3 and the Director of the Bureau of Prisons shall ensure
15 that, with respect to a corrections officer experiencing a
16 mental health issue, the corrections officer—

17 (1) does not suffer an adverse employment out-
18 come, including a fitness for duty evaluation as a re-
19 sult of the mental health issue while the corrections
20 officer is seeking and receiving treatment for the
21 mental health issue; and

22 (2) determines the proper course of treatment
23 in conjunction with the mental health care provider
24 of the of the corrections officer

1 **SEC. 7. FUNDING.**

2 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—There is authorized to be ap-
3 propriated to the Attorney General to carry out this Act—

4 (1) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

5 (2) \$55,000,000 for fiscal year 2027;

6 (3) \$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2028;

7 (4) \$65,000,000 for fiscal year 2029; and

8 (5) \$70,000,000 for fiscal year 2030.

9 (b) DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS.—Of the amounts
10 made available pursuant to subsection (a), the Attorney
11 General shall use—

12 (1) 90 percent to carry out sections 3 and 4,
13 of which—

14 (A) 20 percent shall be for the Director of
15 the Bureau of Prisons to carry out section 4;

16 (B) 20 percent shall be for grants to
17 States under section 3; and

18 (C) 50 percent shall be for grants to local-
19 ities under section 3;

20 (2) 5 percent for the Advisory Board to carry
21 out section 5(a)(2); and

22 (3) 5 percent for the Advisory Board to carry
23 out section 5(b).