



2019 SELS Legislative Recommendations Mental Health: Building Positive Climates for Learning



Mental Health: Building Positive Climates for Learning

Members of Congress are urged to:

- Provide \$2.55 billion for Title II, Part A to prepare educators to implement mental health interventions.
 - Recruit/retain high-quality personnel
 - In-service training on signs of mental illness, referral mechanisms, partnering, conditions for learning.





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Members of Congress are urged to:

- Provide \$1.6 billion for Title IV, Part A in FY 2020 to support schools and early childhood programs to
 - Hire school social workers, school counselors, and school psychologists.
 - Develop partnerships with community mental health entities.





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Members of Congress are urged to:

- Co-sponsor/support *Resilience Investment, Support and Expansion (RISE) from Trauma Act*.
 - S. 1770: Durbin, D-IL, Capito, R-WV.
 - H.R. 3180: Davis, D-IL, Gallagher, R-WI.
 - Supports for children exposed to adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) & trauma.
 - Building trauma-informed workforce.
 - Increasing community resources to support children who have experienced trauma.





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Members of Congress are urged to:

- Maintain current structure and funding for Medicaid that allows reimbursement for IDEA services.
- Support legislative policies that increase access to mental health services through private health insurance and Medicaid.





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Members of Congress are urged to:

- Support policies and funding for services and community interventions for children and youth who experience trauma, environmental stress, and mental health symptoms and disorders.





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Members of Congress are urged to:

- To ensure social/emotional well-being of all children and youth,
 - Support policies/funding promoting prevention & interdisciplinary partnerships among education, early learning, juvenile justice, mental health, and community health providers.





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Increasing Access to MH in Schools Act

- S. 1642 (Tester, D-MT); H.R. 2958 (Chu, D-CA).
- Partnership grants to IHEs and low-income school districts for “pipeline” to increase school MH workforce.
- Loan forgiveness & other recruitment, hiring, retention incentives.





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Mental Health Services for Students Act

- S. 1122 (Smith, D-MN); H.R. 1109 (Napolitano, D-CA).
- Revise, expand & increase Project AWARE
 - Provide more comprehensive school-based MH services.
 - Train school & community staff and families.
 - Universal screening to identify at-risk kids.





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To be introduced:

- *Elementary & Secondary School Counseling Act*
 - Sen. Merkley, D-OR; Rep. Clark, D-MA.
 - Grants to SEAs/LEAs to meet ratio recommendations for school social workers, psychologists, counselors.





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Looking for co-sponsor (D):

- *Mental Health in Schools Excellence Program Act*
 - Rep. Fitzpatrick, R-PA.
 - Grad programs for school SW, psychs, counselors cover part of program cost, with matching from US Dept of Education.

