

December 1, 2022

Chair Patty Murray
Senate HELP Committee
428 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Richard Burr
Senate HELP Committee
428 Dirksen
Washington, DC 20510

Senators Murray and Burr:

As mental health professionals tasked with preventing suicide at schools, we write in strong support of [S. 4970](#), legislation introduced last month by Senators Richard Blumenthal (D-CT) and Tim Scott (R-SC) to ensure that colleges and universities develop and implement evidence-based, comprehensive campus mental health and suicide prevention plans.

We know firsthand the devastating impact mental health challenges can have on students, an impact that has only intensified during the COVID-19 pandemic. According to a 2021 report from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), nearly 1 in 3 (30.6%) young adults between the ages of 18 and 25 experienced a mental, behavioral, or emotional health issue in the past year. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), suicide is the second-leading cause of death for those ages 10 to 34.

The House already passed the companion bill, H.R. 5407, sponsored by Reps. Susan Wild (D-PA) and Fred Keller (R-PA) with overwhelming bipartisan support in June. The legislation received numerous endorsements from mental health organizations for its commitment to improve college students' mental health.

We encourage you to review this legislation and pass the companion measure so that President Biden may sign it into law before the Congress adjourns. Thank you for your leadership on this profoundly important policy proposal.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom
ACPA-College Student Educators International
Active Minds
Alamo Colleges District
American Academy of Social Work and Social Welfare
American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work
American College Health Association (ACHA)
American Council on Education (ACE)
American Counseling Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (AFSP)
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Psychiatric Association (APA)
American Psychological Association (APA)
Anxiety and Depression Association of America

Association for Behavioral Health and Wellness
Center for First-generation Student Success
Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Crisis Text Line
Doc Wayne
Higher Learning Advocates
International Society for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses
LookUp
Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance
NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National League for Nursing
NIRSA: Leaders in Collegiate Recreation
Oakland University
SMART Recovery
The Ardent Axiom
The Jed Foundation (JED)
The National Association for Behavioral Intervention and Threat Assessment
The New School
The STARR Coalition
The Trevor Project
UNM, Student Health and Counseling

CC: Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
Minority Leader Mitch McConnell