

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5864

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for mental health training for law enforcement, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 14, 2016

Mr. MCNERNEY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide for mental health training for law enforcement, and for other purposes.

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 “Mental Health Train-
5 ing Enhancement for First Responders Act of 2016”.

1 **SEC. 2. MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR LAW ENFORCE-**
2 **MENT.**

3 Section 2991(b)(5)(I) of the Omnibus Crime Control
4 and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3797aa(b)(5)(I))
5 is amended by adding at the end the following:

6 “(v) MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR
7 LAW ENFORCEMENT.—Funds may be used
8 for specialized training for law enforcement
9 officers, consistent with the following:

10 “(I) The training provides offi-
11 cers with an understanding of—

12 “(aa) mental illnesses and
13 their impact on individuals, fami-
14 lies, and communities;

15 “(bb) signs and symptoms of
16 mental illnesses;

17 “(cc) stabilization and de-es-
18 calation techniques;

19 “(dd) disposition options;

20 “(ee) community resources;

21 and

22 “(ff) funding for States to
23 create a database for all public
24 safety and outreach.

25 “(II) The training includes—

1 “(aa) role play scenarios on
2 responding to mental health cri-
3 ses;

4 “(bb) group problem solving
5 exercises;

6 “(cc) addressing issues spe-
7 cific to the community;

8 “(dd) participation by men-
9 tal health personnel, experienced
10 officers, and other stakeholders;

11 “(ee) cross training with law
12 enforcement and mental health
13 professionals;

14 “(ff) verbal de-escalation
15 skills; and

16 “(gg) presentations from
17 and interaction with people who
18 have experienced and recovered
19 from mental health crises and
20 with family members who have
21 cared for someone with mental
22 illness.

23 “(III) In the case of training for
24 call-takers and 911 dispatchers, the

1 training includes recommendations
2 on—

3 “(aa) establishing if the call-
4 er or others at the address has a
5 previous record of mental health
6 issues, drug abuse, violence, or
7 victimization;

8 “(bb) determining if any in-
9 dividual at the address from
10 which the call is placed poses a
11 threat of harm to himself or her-
12 self, or to others;

13 “(cc) determining if there is
14 a weapon involved in a situation
15 with regard to which an emer-
16 gency call is placed;

17 “(dd) establishing best prac-
18 tice standards for handling emer-
19 gency calls to be shared inter-
20 agency;

21 “(ee) supplementing training
22 with a concise list of questions to
23 ask, compiled in partnership be-
24 tween law enforcement officials

1 and mental health professionals;
2 and
3 “(ff) relaying information
4 correctly to any emergency re-
5 sponders to the emergency call.”.

6 **SEC. 3. OUNCE OF PREVENTION GRANT.**

7 Section 30102 of the Violent Crime Control and Law
8 Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C. 13742) is amend-
9 ed—

10 (1) in subsection (a)—

11 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and”
12 at the end and inserting “;”;

13 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking the pe-
14 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

15 (C) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(5) placing law enforcement officers at local
17 education agencies.”; and

18 (2) in subsection (b), by inserting after “private
19 nonprofit entities” the following: “, mental health
20 entities”.

21 **SEC. 4. COMMUNITY SCHOOLS YOUTH SERVICES AND SU-
22 PERSION GRANT PROGRAM.**

23 Section 30401(b)(B) of the Violent Crime Control
24 and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (42 U.S.C.

1 13791(b)(B)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
2 lowing:

3 “(ix) Mental health entities.”.

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