

MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS ACT OF 2013

Senator Al Franken

One in five youth in the United States experience mental illness, and **70 percent of adolescents with mental health problems do not receive care**. Over the last two decades, suicide rates have doubled among Americans between the ages of 10 and 14, and 40 percent of currently unemployed parents say they have seen behavioral changes in their children due to their unemployment.

We know how to address these terrible facts. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration, **behavioral and emotional problems decreased among 31 percent of youth with mental health issues after 6 months of receiving mental health care**. Within one year of entering a mental health program, the school attendance rates of youth and their grades increased significantly. In addition, **the number of students involved in violent incidents decreased by 15 percent within three years of a school implementing a mental health program**. But despite this comprehensive evidence showing the importance of access to mental health and substance use disorder services, **many students struggle to access the care they need**.

THE PROBLEM. School staff can play an important role in helping to identify and support children with mental health problems. But in a time of tight state budgets for education, too often support services like school counselors end up on the chopping block. While the American School Counselor Association recommends employing one school counselor for every 250 students, in the 2010-2011 school year, the national average was only one counselor for every 471 students.

THE MENTAL HEALTH IN SCHOOLS ACT. This legislation will expand access to mental health services in schools. It will establish a grant program to support schools that work with community-based organizations to expand access to mental health services for students. The grant program will also provide assistance to schools to train staff, volunteers, families, and other members of the community to recognize the signs of behavioral health problems in students and refer them for appropriate services. Under the legislation, SAMHSA will develop standardized quality measures and participating schools are required to collect and submit data on their programs and outcomes. The legislation authorizes \$200 million in grant funding per year over five years, and eligible schools may apply for up to \$1 million per grant year, based on the size of their student population.

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MINNESOTA ENDORSEMENTS

Minnesota Department of Human Services
Association of Metropolitan School Districts
Barbara Schneider Foundation
Canvas Health
The Emily Program Foundation
Guild Incorporated
Mental Health Association of Minnesota
Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health
Minnesota Association of Community Mental Health Programs
Minnesota Association of School Administrators
Minnesota Association of Secondary School Principals
Minnesota Department of Human Services
Minnesota Disability Law Center
Minnesota Elementary School Principals Association
Minnesota Psychological Association
Minnesota Rural Education Association
Minnesota School Counselors Association
Minnesota School Psychologists Association
Minnesota School Social Workers Association
Minnesota Society of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
National Alliance on Mental Illness- Minnesota
People Incorporated Mental Health Services
Range Mental Health Center
State Advisory Council on Mental Health & Subcommittee on Children's Mental Health (MN)
Washburn Center for Children
Wellstone-Barlow Mental Health Initiative
Suburban Ramsey Family Collaborative

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Endorsements from the 112th Congress

Alliance for Children and Families
American Counseling Association
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy
American Association of Pastoral Counselors
American Association on Health and Disability
American Dance Therapy Association
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention/SPAN USA
American Group Psychotherapy Association
American Mental Health Counselors Association
American Music Therapy Association
American Nurses Association
American Orthopsychiatric Association (Ortho)
American Psychiatric Association
American Psychoanalytic Association
American Psychological Association
American School Counselor Association
American Society for Adolescent Psychiatry
Anxiety Disorders Association of America
Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare (AABH)
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Checkups at Columbia University -[Letter of Support](#)
Child Welfare League of America
Children & Adults with Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder (CHADD)
Child Welfare League of America
Clinical Social Work Association
Confederation of Independent Psychoanalytic Societies
Council for Children with Behavioral Disorders
Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)
Eating Disorders Coalition for Research, Policy & Action
Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health
TeenScreen National Center for Mental Health
Learning Disabilities Association of America
Mental Health America
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health
National Association for Children's Behavioral Health
National Association of Pupil Services Administrators (NAPSA)
National Association of Psychiatric Health Systems
National Association of School Psychologists
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Directors of Special Education
National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors
National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery
National Council for Community Behavioral Healthcare
National Disability Rights Network
National Latino Behavioral Health Association (NLBHA)
National PTA
Schizophrenia and Related Disorders Alliance of America
School Social Work Association of America
Therapeutic Communities of America
Tourette Syndrome Association, Inc.
US Psychiatric Rehabilitation Association
-[Letter of Support](#)
38th District Mental Health Consortium
-[Letter of Support](#)
Latino Behavioral Health Institute
California School Health Centers
-[Letter of Support](#)
Arizona State University College of Nursing and Health Innovation
-[Letter of Support](#)
Hacienda-La Puente Unified School District
-[Letter of Support](#)
California Public Defenders Association
- [Letter of Support](#)
American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychology
- [Letter of Support](#)
[The Ballas Foundation](#)