

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues among public safety telecommunicators.

---

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. KELLY of Illinois introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

**A BILL**

To require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to improve the detection, prevention, and treatment of mental health issues among public safety telecommunicators.

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 “Providing Resources  
5 and Occupational Training for Emotional Crisis and  
6 Trauma in 911 Act” or the “PROTECT 911 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. BEST PRACTICES AND OTHER RESOURCES FOR AD-**  
2 **DRESSING MENTAL HEALTH IN PUBLIC SAFE-**  
3 **TY TELECOMMUNICATORS.**

4 (a) BEST PRACTICES.—The Secretary shall—

5 (1) develop and make publicly available evi-  
6 dence-based best practices to identify, prevent, and  
7 treat posttraumatic stress disorder and co-occurring  
8 disorders in public safety telecommunicators; and

9 (2) periodically reassess and update, as the Sec-  
10 retary determines necessary, such best practices.

11 (b) DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURCES FOR EDUCATING  
12 MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ABOUT TREATING  
13 PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS.—The Secretary  
14 shall develop and make publicly available resources that  
15 may be used by the Federal Government and other entities  
16 to educate mental health professionals about—

17 (1) the culture of emergency communications  
18 centers;

19 (2) the different stressors experienced by public  
20 safety telecommunicators;

21 (3) challenges encountered by retired public  
22 safety telecommunicators; and

23 (4) evidence-based therapies for mental health  
24 issues common to public safety telecommunicators.

1 (c) CONSULTATION.—In developing best practices  
2 under subsection (a) and resources under subsection (b),  
3 the Secretary shall consult with—

4 (1) public health experts;

5 (2) mental health experts with experience  
6 studying suicide, posttraumatic stress disorder, and  
7 other illnesses associated with job-related stress;

8 (3) clinicians with experience in diagnosing and  
9 treating mental health issues; and

10 (4) relevant national nonprofit associations of  
11 public safety telecommunicators.

12 (d) DEFINITIONS.—

13 (1) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER.—

14 The term “emergency communications center”  
15 means a facility that is designated to receive a 9–  
16 1–1 request for emergency assistance and perform  
17 one or more of the following functions:

18 (A) Process and analyze 9–1–1 requests  
19 for emergency assistance and other gathered in-  
20 formation.

21 (B) Dispatch appropriate emergency re-  
22 sponse providers.

23 (C) Transfer or exchange 9–1–1 requests  
24 for emergency assistance and other gathered in-

1           formation with other emergency communica-  
2           tions centers and emergency response providers.

3           (D) Analyze any communications received  
4           from emergency response providers.

5           (E) Support incident command functions.

6           (2) PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR.—

7           The term “public safety telecommunicator” means a  
8           public safety telecommunicator as designated in de-  
9           tailed occupation 43–5031 in the Standard Occupa-  
10          tional Classification Manual of the Office of Man-  
11          agement and Budget (2018), or any successor des-  
12          ignation.

13 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS**  
14                   **PROGRAMS WITHIN EMERGENCY COMMU-**  
15                   **NICATIONS CENTERS.**

16          Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
17          (42 U.S.C. 243 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
18          the following:

19 **“SEC. 320C. GRANTS FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND**  
20                   **WELLNESS PROGRAMS WITHIN EMERGENCY**  
21                   **COMMUNICATIONS CENTERS.**

22          “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
23          grants to State, local, and regional emergency communica-  
24          tions centers and other eligible entities for the purpose of

1 establishing or enhancing behavioral health and wellness  
2 programs.

3 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a  
4 grant under this section shall use funds received through  
5 the grant—

6 “(1) to establish evidence-based behavioral  
7 health and wellness programs for emergency commu-  
8 nications centers to support public safety tele-  
9 communicators, including programs dedicated to  
10 raising awareness of, preventing, and mitigating job-  
11 related mental health issues;

12 “(2) to establish or enhance peer-support be-  
13 havioral health and wellness programs;

14 “(3) to acquire materials or instructors to pro-  
15 vide such training; and

16 “(4) to disseminate such information and mate-  
17 rials as are necessary to carry out a evidence-based  
18 behavioral health and wellness program.

19 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—

20 “(1) EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER.—

21 The term ‘emergency communications center’ means  
22 a facility that is designated to receive a 9–1–1 re-  
23 quest for emergency assistance and perform one or  
24 more of the following functions:

1           “(A) Process and analyze 9–1–1 requests  
2           for emergency assistance and other gathered in-  
3           formation.

4           “(B) Dispatch appropriate emergency re-  
5           sponse providers.

6           “(C) Transfer or exchange 9–1–1 requests  
7           for emergency assistance and other gathered in-  
8           formation with other emergency communica-  
9           tions centers and emergency response providers.

10          “(D) Analyze any communications received  
11          from emergency response providers.

12          “(E) Support incident command functions.

13          “(2) OTHER ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term  
14          ‘other eligible entity’ means a nonprofit organization  
15          with expertise and experience with respect to the  
16          health and wellness of public safety telecommunica-  
17          tors, including State, local, and regional 9–1–1 au-  
18          thorities and State, regional, and national public  
19          safety communications associations.

20          “(3) PEER-SUPPORT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND  
21          WELLNESS PROGRAM.—The term ‘peer-support be-  
22          havioral health and wellness program’ means pro-  
23          grams that use public safety telecommunicators to  
24          serve as peer counselors or provide training to public

1 safety telecommunicators to serve as such peer coun-  
2 selors.

3 “(4) PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATOR.—

4 The term ‘public safety telecommunicator’ means a  
5 public safety telecommunicator as designated in de-  
6 tailed occupation 43–5031 in the Standard Occupa-  
7 tional Classification Manual of the Office of Man-  
8 agement and Budget (2018), or any successor des-  
9 ignation.”.