

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2476

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategy to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Hispanic and Latino population, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 25, 2023

Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. MENENDEZ) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a behavioral and mental health outreach and education strategy to reduce stigma associated with mental health among the Hispanic and Latino population, 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 for  
5 Latinos Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. HISPANIC AND LATINO BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL**  
2 **HEALTH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRAT-**  
3 **EGY.**

4 Part D of title V of the Public Health Service Act  
5 (42 U.S.C. 290dd et seq.) is amended by adding at the  
6 end the following new section:

7 **“SEC. 553. BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH**  
8 **AND EDUCATION STRATEGY.**

9 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
10 the Assistant Secretary, shall, in coordination with advo-  
11 cacy and behavioral and mental health organizations serv-  
12 ing populations of Hispanic and Latino individuals or  
13 communities, develop and implement an outreach and edu-  
14 cation strategy to promote behavioral and mental health  
15 and reduce stigma associated with mental health condi-  
16 tions and substance abuse among the Hispanic and Latino  
17 populations. Such strategy shall—

18 “(1) be designed to—

19 “(A) meet the diverse cultural and lan-  
20 guage needs of the various Hispanic and Latino  
21 populations; and

22 “(B) be developmentally and age-appro-  
23 priate;

24 “(2) increase awareness of symptoms of mental  
25 illnesses common among such populations, taking  
26 into account differences within subgroups, such as

1 gender, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, or  
2 race or ethnicity, of such populations;

3 “(3) provide information on evidence-based, cul-  
4 turally and linguistically appropriate and adapted  
5 interventions and treatments;

6 “(4) ensure full participation of, and engage,  
7 both consumers and community members in the de-  
8 velopment and implementation of materials;

9 “(5) seek to broaden the perspective among  
10 both individuals in Hispanic and Latino communities  
11 and stakeholders serving such communities to use a  
12 comprehensive public health approach to promoting  
13 behavioral health that addresses a holistic view of  
14 health by focusing on the intersection between be-  
15 havioral and physical health; and

16 “(6) address the impact of the SARS-CoV-2  
17 pandemic on the mental and behavioral health of the  
18 Hispanic and Latino populations.

19 “(b) REPORTS.—Beginning not later than 1 year  
20 after the date of the enactment of this section and annu-  
21 ally thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant  
22 Secretary, shall submit to Congress, and make publicly  
23 available, a report on the extent to which the strategy de-  
24 veloped and implemented under subsection (a) improved  
25 behavioral and mental health outcomes associated with

1 mental health conditions and substance abuse among His-  
2 panic and Latino populations.

3 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
4 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
5 \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.”.

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