118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

S._____

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

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Mr. Padilla introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on ____________________

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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".
SEC. 2. HISPANIC AND LATINO BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL
HEALTH OUTREACH AND EDUCATION STRATEGY.

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

"SEC. 553. BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH OUTREACH
AND EDUCATION STRATEGY.

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

"(1) be designed to—

"(A) meet the diverse cultural and lan-
guage needs of the various Hispanic and Latino
populations; and

"(B) be developmentally and age-approp-
riate;

"(2) increase awareness of symptoms of mental
illnesses common among such populations, taking
into account differences within subgroups, such as
gender, gender identity, age, sexual orientation, or race or ethnicity, of such populations;

"(3) provide information on evidence-based, culturally and linguistically appropriate and adapted interventions and treatments;

"(4) ensure full participation of, and engage, both consumers and community members in the development and implementation of materials;

"(5) seek to broaden the perspective among both individuals in Hispanic and Latino communities and stakeholders serving such communities to use a comprehensive public health approach to promoting behavioral health that addresses a holistic view of health by focusing on the intersection between behavioral and physical health; and

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

"(b) REPORTS.—Beginning not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section and annually thereafter, the Secretary, acting through the Assistant Secretary, shall submit to Congress, and make publicly available, a report on the extent to which the strategy developed and implemented under subsection (a) improved behavioral and mental health outcomes associated with
1 mental health conditions and substance abuse among His-
2panic 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."