

# **A Bill to Provide Federal Funding for School Counselors to Address the Mental Health Crisis**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS HERE ASSEMBLED THAT:

- 1   **SECTION 1.**   The United States Federal Government will establish a School Mental  
2                   Health Support Grant Program that will be funded 3.5 billion dollars  
3                   annually to fund the hiring, training, and retention of mental health  
4                   counselors in K-12 public schools.
- 5   **SECTION 2.**   Mental Health Counselors will be defined as a state-licensed school  
6                   counselor, school psychologist, or clinical social worker who is legally  
7                   authorized to provide mental health services to minors.
- 8   **SECTION 3.**   Funds from this program shall be used for:  
9                   A. Hiring mental health counselors.  
10                  B. Maintaining a minimum ratio of one mental health counselor for every  
11                  250 students in each participating school district.  
12                  C. Training and professional development in trauma-informed care,  
13                  adolescent psychology, and crisis intervention.
- 14 **SECTION 4.**   The Department of Education shall administer this program by:  
15                  A. Distributing grants to states based on student population and  
16                  demonstrated mental health needs.  
17                  B. Prioritizing low income, rural, and high-need districts.  
18                  C. Requiring annual reports from each participating district detailing  
19                  counselor-student ratios, services provided, and measurable outcomes.
- 20 **SECTION 4.**   This legislation will take effect on July 1, 2026. All laws in conflict with this  
21                  legislation are hereby declared null and void.

*Introduced for Congressional Debate by Rameen Nazim, Ridge High School.*