

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To establish a grant program for institutions of higher education to implement patient-centered academic counseling services for student survivors of sexual assault and other violence.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. FETTERMAN, and Mr. DURBIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To establish a grant program for institutions of higher education to implement patient-centered academic counseling services for student survivors of sexual assault and other violence.

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 “Support for Univer-
5 sities and Colleges to Champion the Educational Success
6 of Survivors Act of 2026” or the “SUCCESS Act of
7 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) Campus sexual assault remains a pervasive
4 issue on the campuses of institutions of higher edu-
5 cation across the United States and negatively im-
6 pacts student survivors' academic outcomes.

7 (2) Sexual assault is one of the biggest risk fac-
8 tors for developing post-traumatic stress disorder,
9 which is associated with decreased neurocognitive
10 functioning that makes learning and retaining infor-
11 mation difficult.

12 (3) Individuals impacted by trauma can often
13 experience residual effects such as substance use dis-
14 orders, suicidal ideation, personality disorders, de-
15 pression, and anxiety, as well as other possible men-
16 tal health challenges that can significantly impact
17 academic performance or success and overall well-
18 being.

19 (4) Studies have shown that student survivors
20 are more likely to have lower grade point averages,
21 have difficulty with self-regulated learning, and are
22 ultimately more likely to drop out of their institution
23 of higher education.

24 (5) Considering the relationship between sexual
25 assault and negative academic outcomes, institutions
26 of higher education should provide these students

1 not only with mental health services, but also with
2 targeted academic support to counter their increased
3 risk for negative academic outcomes.

4 (6) Patient-centered academic counseling and
5 tutoring programs can be powerful tools to better
6 support student survivors, improve their higher edu-
7 cation retention rates, and ultimately support their
8 educational success.

9 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM FOR PATIENT-CENTERED ACA-**
10 **DEMIC COUNSELING SERVICES FOR STU-**
11 **DENT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND**
12 **OTHER VIOLENCE.**

13 Title VIII of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
14 U.S.C. 1161a et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
15 the following:

16 **“PART BB—GRANT PROGRAM FOR PATIENT-CEN-**
17 **TERED ACADEMIC COUNSELING SERVICES**
18 **FOR STUDENT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL AS-**
19 **SAULT AND OTHER VIOLENCE**

20 **“SEC. 898A. GRANT PROGRAM FOR PATIENT-CENTERED**
21 **ACADEMIC COUNSELING SERVICES FOR STU-**
22 **DENT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND**
23 **OTHER VIOLENCE.**

24 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—**In this section:

1 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—The term ‘eligi-
2 ble institution’ means an institution of higher edu-
3 cation as defined in section 101(a).

4 “(2) PATIENT-CENTERED.—The term ‘patient-
5 centered’, when used with respect to services pro-
6 vided to student survivors of sexual assault or other
7 violence, means—

8 “(A) recognizing the widespread emotional,
9 behavioral, developmental, and legal impact of
10 trauma and understanding potential paths for
11 recovery;

12 “(B) recognizing the signs and symptoms
13 of trauma in individuals, families, and staff;

14 “(C) integrating the knowledge about trau-
15 ma into policies, procedures, and practices; and

16 “(D) actively resisting re-traumatizing by
17 avoiding creating environments that inadvert-
18 ently remind survivors of their traumatic expe-
19 riences and cause them to experience psycho-
20 logical and biological stress.

21 “(3) SEXUAL ASSAULT.—The term ‘sexual as-
22 sault’ has the meaning given the term in section
23 485(f)(6)(A).

24 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made avail-
2 able to carry out this section, the Secretary shall
3 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible in-
4 stitutions to enable the eligible institutions to imple-
5 ment patient-centered academic counseling services
6 and other services for student survivors of sexual as-
7 sault and other violence.

8 “(2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this
9 section shall be for a term of 5 years.

10 “(c) APPLICATION.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible institution de-
12 siring a grant under this section shall submit to the
13 Secretary an application at such time, in such man-
14 ner, and containing such information as the Sec-
15 retary may require.

16 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
17 under paragraph (1) shall include—

18 “(A) a description of how the eligible insti-
19 tution will inform students enrolled in the insti-
20 tution of the patient-centered academic coun-
21 seling services for student survivors of sexual
22 assault and other violence;

23 “(B) a description of how the eligible insti-
24 tution will provide training for faculty and staff
25 to support and connect student survivors of sex-

1 ual assault and other violence with patient-cen-
2 tered care; and

3 “(C) a description of the protocols the eli-
4 gible institution will follow for coordinating pa-
5 tient-centered academic counseling and tutoring
6 programs for survivors.

7 “(d) AWARD BASIS.—In awarding grants under this
8 section, the Secretary shall give priority to—

9 “(1) institutions of higher education with a his-
10 tory of violations of title IX of the Education
11 Amendments of 1972;

12 “(2) community colleges (defined as ‘junior or
13 community colleges’ under section 502(a)(6)); and

14 “(3) minority-serving institutions (defined as
15 institutions eligible under section 371(a)), including
16 historically Black colleges and universities and Trib-
17 al Colleges and Universities.

18 “(e) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible institution receiv-
19 ing a grant under this section shall use grant funds to
20 carry out 1 or more of the following:

21 “(1) Providing higher education re-entry assist-
22 ance for student survivors of sexual assault and
23 other violence who had to take leaves of absence or
24 withdraw from the eligible institution.

1 “(2) Increasing training for faculty and admin-
2 istrators on patient-centered care, on recognizing
3 signs of trauma, and on connecting survivors of sex-
4 ual assault and other violence to appropriate support
5 services.

6 “(3) Providing professional development fo-
7 cused on patient-centered practices for academic ad-
8 visors and academic counselors.

9 “(4) Providing academic accommodation for
10 students experiencing trauma, such as patient-cen-
11 tered training for tutors or the establishment of a
12 confidential tutoring program specifically designed to
13 assist student survivors of sexual assault and other
14 violence.

15 “(5) Increasing mental health services for stu-
16 dent survivors of sexual assault and other violence.

17 “(6) Creating or enhancing a fund for survivors
18 of sexual assault and other violence to be used for
19 wrap-around services.

20 “(f) REPORTS.—

21 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION REPORTS.—

22 “(A) IN GENERAL.—At the end of the
23 grant period, each eligible institution receiving
24 a grant under this section shall prepare and

1 submit to the Secretary a report on the pro-
2 gram carried out under the grant.

3 “(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
4 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

5 “(i)(I) the kinds of accommodations
6 the student survivors who reported sexual
7 assault or instances of other violence dur-
8 ing the period described in subparagraph
9 (A) requested; and

10 “(II) the accommodations that such
11 students were given;

12 “(ii) the graduation and re-enrollment
13 rates of student survivors of sexual assault
14 and other violence who were enrolled in the
15 eligible institution during the grant period;
16 and

17 “(iii) such other information as the
18 Secretary may require.

19 “(2) SECRETARY REPORT.—

20 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one
21 year after the grant program has concluded, the
22 Secretary shall submit a report to the author-
23 izing committees regarding the grant program
24 carried out under this section.

1 “(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
2 under subparagraph (A) shall include the grad-
3 uation and re-enrollment rates of student sur-
4 vivors of sexual assault and other violence who
5 were enrolled in the eligible institutions during
6 the grant period, in order to determine the ef-
7 fectiveness of the grant program.

8 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
9 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 such sums as may be necessary for fiscal year 2027 and
11 each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.

12 **SEC. 4. SEVERABILITY.**

13 If any provision of this Act or any amendment made
14 by this Act, or any application of such provision or amend-
15 ment to any person or circumstance, is held to be uncon-
16 stitutional, the remainder of the provisions of this Act and
17 the amendments made by this Act, and the application of
18 the provision or amendment to any other person or cir-
19 cumstance, shall not be affected.