

118TH CONGRESS
1ST 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 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 2023” or the “SUCCESS Act of
7 2023”.

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 Part B of title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965
14 (20 U.S.C. 1011 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
15 the following:

16 **“SEC. 124. GRANT PROGRAM FOR PATIENT-CENTERED ACA-**
17 **DEMIC COUNSELING SERVICES FOR STU-**
18 **DENT SURVIVORS OF SEXUAL ASSAULT AND**
19 **OTHER VIOLENCE.**

20 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

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

24 “(2) PATIENT-CENTERED.—The term ‘patient-
25 centered’, when used with respect to services pro-

1 vided to student survivors of sexual assault or other
2 violence, means—

3 “(A) recognizing the widespread emotional,
4 behavioral, developmental, and legal impact of
5 trauma and understanding potential paths for
6 recovery;

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

9 “(C) integrating the knowledge about trauma
10 into policies, procedures, and practices; and

11 “(D) actively resisting re-traumatizing by
12 avoiding creating environments that inadvertently
13 remind survivors of their traumatic experiences
14 and cause them to experience psychological
15 and biological stress.

16 “(3) SEXUAL ASSAULT.—The term ‘sexual assault’
17 has the meaning given the term in section
18 485(f)(6)(A).

19 “(b) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—From amounts made available
21 to carry out this section, the Secretary shall
22 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible institutions
23 to enable the eligible institutions to implement
24 patient-centered academic counseling services

1 and other services for student survivors of sexual as-
2 sault and other violence.

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

5 “(c) APPLICATION.—

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

11 “(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted
12 under paragraph (1) shall include—

13 “(A) a description of how the eligible insti-
14 tution will inform students enrolled in the insti-
15 tution of the patient-centered academic coun-
16 seling services for student survivors of sexual
17 assault and other violence;

18 “(B) a description of how the eligible insti-
19 tution will provide training for faculty and staff
20 to support and connect student survivors of sex-
21 ual assault and other violence with patient-cen-
22 tered care; and

23 “(C) a description of the protocols the eli-
24 gible institution will follow for coordinating pa-

1 tient-centered academic counseling and tutoring
2 programs for survivors.

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

5 “(1) institutions of higher education with a his-
6 tory of violations of title IX of the Education
7 Amendments of 1972;

8 “(2) community colleges (defined as ‘junior or
9 community colleges’ under section 502(a)(6));

10 “(3) historically Black colleges and universities
11 (defined as ‘part B institutions’ under section 322);

12 “(4) Tribal Colleges or Universities (as defined
13 under section 316(b)); and

14 “(5) other minority-serving institutions (defined
15 as institutions eligible under section 371(a)).

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

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

23 “(2) Increasing training for faculty and admin-
24 istrators on patient-centered care, on recognizing
25 signs of trauma, and on connecting survivors of sex-

1 ual assault and other violence to appropriate support
2 services.

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

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

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

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

17 “(f) REPORTS.—

18 “(1) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION REPORTS.—

19 “(A) IN GENERAL.—At the end of the
20 grant period, each eligible institution receiving
21 a grant under this section shall prepare and
22 submit to the Secretary a report on the pro-
23 gram carried out under the grant.

24 “(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
25 under subparagraph (A) shall include—

1 “(i)(I) the kinds of accommodations
2 the student survivors who reported sexual
3 assault or instances of other violence dur-
4 ing the period described in subparagraph
5 (A) requested; and

6 “(II) the accommodations that such
7 students were given;

8 “(ii) the graduation and re-enrollment
9 rates of student survivors of sexual assault
10 and other violence who were enrolled in the
11 eligible institution during the grant period;
12 and

13 “(iii) such other information as the
14 Secretary may require.

15 “(2) SECRETARY REPORTS.—

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

21 “(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted
22 under subparagraph (A) shall include the grad-
23 uation and re-enrollment rates of student sur-
24 vivors of sexual assault and other violence who
25 were enrolled in the eligible institutions during

1 the grant period, in order to determine the ef-
2 fectiveness of the grant program.

3 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
5 such sums as may be necessary for 2024 and each of the
6 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.