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.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

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

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.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Mental Health for 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.".