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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish an EMS and First Responder Wellness Grant Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SALINAS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title 23, United States Code, to establish an EMS and First Responder Wellness Grant Program, 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 “Lifeline for First Re-
5 sponders Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EMS AND FIRST RESPONDER WELLNESS GRANT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 4 of title 23, United
4 States Code, is amended by inserting after section 408 the
5 following:

6 **“§ 409. EMS and First Responder Wellness Grant Pro-**
7 **gram**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
9 through the Administrator of the National Highway Traf-
10 fic Safety Administration, shall establish a grant program,
11 to be known as the ‘EMS and First Responder Wellness
12 Grant Program’ (referred to in this section as the ‘Pro-
13 gram’), to support first responder mental health, stress
14 reduction, family services, and suicide prevention.

15 “(b) PLACEMENT.—The Program shall be carried out
16 through the Office of Emergency Medical Services of the
17 National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

18 “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An entity eligible to re-
19 ceive a grant under the Program is—

20 “(1) a Federal, State, Tribal, or local fire serv-
21 ice that supplies emergency medical services;

22 “(2) an emergency medical services agency; and

23 “(3) a dispatch center.

24 “(d) AUTHORIZED USES.—A grant provided under
25 the Program may be used for—

1 “(1) evidence-based stress reduction and mental
2 health services;

3 “(2) suicide prevention, intervention, and
4 postvention services;

5 “(3) confidential counseling, peer support, and
6 behavioral health services;

7 “(4) family support services for spouses and
8 children; and

9 “(5) outreach, stigma reduction, education,
10 training, and technical assistance.

11 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
12 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out the Program
13 \$7,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2028 through 2032.”.

14 (b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The analysis for chap-
15 ter 4 of title 23, United States Code, is amended by insert-
16 ing after the item relating to section 408 the following:

“409. EMS and First Responder Wellness Grant Program.”.