

HR 7232

9–8–8 and Parity Assistance Act of 2022

Congress: 117 (2021–2023, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Mar 28, 2022

Current Status: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.

Latest Action: Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology. (Mar 29, 2022)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/7232>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Cárdenas, Tony [D-CA-29]

Party: Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (9 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Beyer, Donald S., Jr. [D-VA-8]	D · VA		Mar 28, 2022
Rep. Blunt Rochester, Lisa [D-DE-At Large]	D · DE		Mar 28, 2022
Rep. Fitzpatrick, Brian K. [R-PA-1]	R · PA		Mar 28, 2022
Rep. Matsui, Doris O. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Mar 28, 2022
Rep. Moulton, Seth [D-MA-6]	D · MA		Mar 28, 2022
Rep. Napolitano, Grace F. [D-CA-32]	D · CA		Mar 28, 2022
Rep. Raskin, Jamie [D-MD-8]	D · MD		Mar 28, 2022
Rep. Manning, Kathy E. [D-NC-6]	D · NC		Apr 27, 2022
Rep. Phillips, Dean [D-MN-3]	D · MN		Nov 3, 2022

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 29, 2022

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

9-8-8 and Parity Assistance Act of 2022

This bill modifies provisions to increase access to behavioral health services, with a focus on crisis services and the 9-8-8 telecommunication system. (The 9-8-8 system provides callers with mental health or suicide crisis support and resources through the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and is scheduled to take effect by July 16, 2022.)

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) must award grants to crisis call centers for hiring and training staff and otherwise improving operations.

Further, SAMHSA must establish standards for a behavioral health crisis continuum of care that health care providers and communities may use in responding to individuals experiencing a behavioral health crisis. The continuum must include emergency treatment, stabilization, and related services.

Additionally, the bill (1) sets up an office within SAMHSA to coordinate behavioral health activities, (2) requires a national suicide prevention media campaign, and (3) establishes various grants. The grants include

- a pilot program for mobile crisis care teams that respond to behavioral health crises rather than law enforcement,
- a capital improvement program for certain behavioral health facilities, and
- a program for supporting the implementation of federal mental health parity provisions that require health insurance issuers to provide equivalent coverage for mental health services as they provide for medical and surgical services.

The bill also expands certain behavioral health education and training programs to encompass education and training related to crisis management.

Actions Timeline

- **Mar 29, 2022:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology.
- **Mar 28, 2022:** Introduced in House
- **Mar 28, 2022:** Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.