

S 4618

Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act

Congress: 119 (2025–2027, Current)

Chamber: Senate

Policy Area: Education

Introduced: May 21, 2026

Current Status: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Latest Action: Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. (May 21, 2026)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/119th-congress/senate-bill/4618>

Sponsor

Name: Sen. Merkley, Jeff [D-OR]

Party: Democratic • **State:** OR • **Chamber:** Senate

Cosponsors (19 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Sen. Bennet, Michael F. [D-CO]	D · CO		May 21, 2026
Sen. Blumenthal, Richard [D-CT]	D · CT		May 21, 2026
Sen. Booker, Cory A. [D-NJ]	D · NJ		May 21, 2026
Sen. Coons, Christopher A. [D-DE]	D · DE		May 21, 2026
Sen. Durbin, Richard J. [D-IL]	D · IL		May 21, 2026
Sen. Fetterman, John [D-PA]	D · PA		May 21, 2026
Sen. Heinrich, Martin [D-NM]	D · NM		May 21, 2026
Sen. Hirono, Mazie K. [D-HI]	D · HI		May 21, 2026
Sen. Kaine, Tim [D-VA]	D · VA		May 21, 2026
Sen. King, Angus S., Jr. [I-ME]	I · ME		May 21, 2026
Sen. Klobuchar, Amy [D-MN]	D · MN		May 21, 2026
Sen. Murphy, Christopher [D-CT]	D · CT		May 21, 2026
Sen. Padilla, Alex [D-CA]	D · CA		May 21, 2026
Sen. Reed, Jack [D-RI]	D · RI		May 21, 2026
Sen. Shaheen, Jeanne [D-NH]	D · NH		May 21, 2026
Sen. Smith, Tina [D-MN]	D · MN		May 21, 2026
Sen. Van Hollen, Chris [D-MD]	D · MD		May 21, 2026
Sen. Wyden, Ron [D-OR]	D · OR		May 21, 2026
Sen. Gillibrand, Kirsten E. [D-NY]	D · NY		Jun 22, 2026

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee	Senate	Referred To	May 21, 2026

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Education

Related Bills

Bill	Relationship	Last Action
119 HR 8979	Identical bill	May 21, 2026: Referred to the House Committee on Education and Workforce.

Summary (as of May 21, 2026)

Elementary and Secondary School Counseling Act

This bill directs the Department of Education to award formula grants to states and, through them, subgrants to local educational agencies to increase access to school-based, mental-health-services providers at high-need public elementary and secondary schools.

Actions Timeline

- May 21, 2026:** Introduced in Senate
- May 21, 2026:** Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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