



APA Public Interest Government Relations Office

Healthy Transition Act of 2008

Healthy Transition Act of 2008 (H.R. 6375/S. 3195)

Sponsored by Representative Pete Stark (D-CA) and Senators Gordon Smith (R-OR) and Christopher Dodd (D-CT).

The *Healthy Transition Act of 2008* amends the *Public Health Service Act* to provide assistance to adolescents and young adults with serious mental health disorders as they transition to adulthood.

Key provisions in the legislation would:

- Establish planning grants for States to develop statewide coordination plans to assist adolescents and young adults with a serious mental health disorder to acquire the skills and resources they need to make a healthy and successful transition to adulthood.
- Establish a grant program to help States implement the plan they have created under the planning grants or to States that have an equivalent plan approved by SAMHSA. Use of funds under the program encourage the facilitation of a youth ombudsman, peer support programs, access to independent living and life support skills, development of an infrastructure to support access to health, mental health, employment, education, and housing supports, as well as facilitating the training of service providers.
- Establish a committee of federal partners that will coordinate service programs that assist adolescents and young adults with mental illness at the federal level and provide technical assistance to States as they implement their plans.

This Act also includes provisions specifically addressing:

- The need for Evidence-Based Practices;
- Involvement of youth and families in the planning and implementation of their services;
- Attention to youth who have a low likelihood of a successful transition due to the severity of their illness;
- Considerations necessary for program evaluations; and
- Acknowledgment of and emphasis on workforce development.

