



# APA Public Interest Government Relations Office

## Mental Health in Schools Act of 2007

### **Mental Health in Schools Act of 2007 (S. 1332)**

*Sponsored by Senators Edward Kennedy (D-MA), Pete Domenici (R-NM), Christopher Dodd (D-CT) and Michael Enzi (R-WY).*

The Mental Health in Schools Act of 2007 amends the Public Health Service Act to revise and extend projects relating to children and violence to provide access to school-based comprehensive mental health programs.

In particular, this legislation:

- Amends the Public Health Service Act to expand the program to provide grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to develop ways to assist children in dealing with violence to include assisting local communities and schools in applying a public health approach to mental health services, including providing comprehensive services and supports and incorporating strategies of positive behavioral interventions and supports.
- Authorizes the Secretary of Health and Human Services to implement a comprehensive school mental health program that incorporates positive behavioral interventions and supports.
- Establishes eligibility requirements for the program, including requiring:
  - a partnership between a local educational agency and at least one community program or agency that is involved in mental health;
  - the program to provide for in-service training of all school personnel; and
  - sustainability of the program after funding terminates.
- Requires the Administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to develop a process for evaluating activities under the grant program to include the development of student and family outcome measures and local educational outcome measures.

