

## **RISE (Resilience Investment, Support & Expansion) from Trauma Act (S.2086)**

Sens. Dick Durbin (D-IL), Shelley Moore Capito (R-WV),  
Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Lisa Murkowski (R-AK)

**Background:** When children experience traumatic events—such as being victims or witnesses of violence, exposed to drug addiction, or living in fear of abuse—they can suffer. Trauma over-stresses the developing brain, which can impact emotional regulation and force children into constant “survival mode”. Decades of research, including the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) study, have established the link between a child’s exposure to trauma, its effect on neurological and behavioral development, and long-term consequences. Left unaddressed, childhood exposure to trauma can impact mental and physical wellbeing, healthy relationships, and academic achievement—and fuel the cycle of violence, addiction, and poverty.

**The Need in Our Communities:** Nationally, nearly 35 million children have had at least one traumatic experience, and nearly two-thirds of children have been exposed to violence. Studies show that individuals who have experienced 6 or more ACEs have a 20 year shorter average life expectancy, and those who have experienced 4 or more ACEs are 10 times more likely to use illicit narcotics and 12 times more likely to attempt suicide.

Too few children who experience trauma are identified and supported with the right care, often due to lack of trained providers, clinical resources, or because it can be misunderstood. Those who never receive help can carry the weight of these emotional scars for life.

**The Solution:** The good news is that the impact of trauma on children can be prevented and mitigated by training parents, teachers, and others to provide safe, stable, nurturing environments for children and evidence-based interventions to foster coping and resilience skills. Schools, health care, social services, child welfare, first responders, and the justice system must all have the tools to recognize and coordinate services to prevent and treat the effects of trauma.

Building upon federal trauma-informed legislation passed in 2018, the RISE from Trauma Act would expand the trauma-informed workforce and increase resources for communities:

### Community Response & Capacity.

- Creates a new, \$600M annual grant program to support community coalitions of stakeholders to plan and target efforts to address local trauma interventions.
- Creates a new grant program for hospital-based trauma interventions for patients with violent injury, overdose, or suicide attempts to support recovery and prevent readmission;
- Expands the number of federal grant programs that can deliver trauma services;
- Establish training and certification guidelines to enable insurance reimbursement for community figures—such as mentors, peers, and faith leaders—to address trauma.

### Workforce Development.

- Increases funding for National Health Service Corps clinicians serving in school settings;
- Increases recruitment into health professions from individuals and communities that have experienced trauma; and
- Enhances training programs and tools for aspiring and current early childhood clinicians, teachers, peer support specialists, faith leaders, first responders, and others.

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**Endorsements:** The RISE from Trauma Act is endorsed by the following organizations: American Academy of Pediatrics, American Psychological Association, National Education Association, Children's Defense Fund, YMCA of the USA, Zero to Three, Futures without Violence, National Head Start Association, Center for Law and Social Policy, Campaign for Trauma-Informed Policy and Practice, American Psychiatric Association, Trust for America's Health, First Focus Campaign for Children, Family Focused Treatment Association, Alliance for Strong Families and Communities, Afterschool Alliance, Committee for Children, Prevent Child Abuse America, Girls Inc., Starr Commonwealth, MENTOR, National Crittenton, National Association of Counsel for Children, National Family Support Network, and Family Centered Treatment Foundation.