

the National Strategy for Social Connection act

The Surgeon General recently declared an epidemic of loneliness and isolation in the United States, noting that social isolation and loneliness pose a significant risk to individual health and longevity, create economic cost for individuals and communities, and decrease community resilience, safety, and economic prosperity. The National Strategy for Social Connection Act is a simple roadmap to begin addressing this epidemic by naming the problem, developing solutions, educating the public about best practices, and improving data about the scope of the problem.

THE BILL WOULD:

ESTABLISH AN OFFICE WITHIN THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT TO COMBAT LONELINESS AND STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES

- Create an Office of Social Connection Policy to advise the President on loneliness and isolation and how these issues relate to the economy, public health, national security, the environment, and civic and community engagement.
- Form an Advisory Council within the Office to convene stakeholders and work across federal departments and agencies to develop effective strategies to improve social infrastructure, quality of life, and community engagement in the United States.

REQUIRE A NATIONAL STRATEGY ON SOCIAL CONNECTION

- The Office would develop a government-wide strategy to integrate social connection policy across federal departments and agencies, such as transportation, housing, health, education, and labor, to promote connection and strengthen communities.

IMPROVE PUBLIC EDUCATION AND AWARENESS ON SOCIAL CONNECTION

- Similar to existing national guidelines on nutrition, sleep, and physical activity, the Office would issue research-based best practices on how to better engage and connect within our local communities.

SUPPORT CONTINUED RESEARCH AND IMPROVED DATA ON SOCIAL DISCONNECTION AND LONELINESS

- Provide consistent, sustainable funding to support the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's research on social connection, loneliness, and social infrastructure.