

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2023

**H.B. 494**  
**Mar 28, 2023**  
**HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK**

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HOUSE BILL DRH10238-LUa-140A

Short Title: Strong Minds Pilot Program. (Public)

Sponsors: Representative Ball.

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO ESTABLISH THE STRONG MINDS PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT THE  
3 MENTAL HEALTH OF CAREGIVERS OF CHILDREN BIRTH TO FIVE YEARS OF  
4 AGE.  
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:  
6 **SECTION 1.** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
7 Health and Human Services, Division of Child Development and Early Education (Division), the  
8 sum of two hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$280,000) in nonrecurring funds for the 2023-2024  
9 fiscal year. Funds appropriated in this act shall be allocated to the Wake County Smart Start and  
10 the Richmond County Partnership for Children to establish the Strong Minds pilot program, an  
11 evidence-based model that uses community health workers (CHWs) to support the mental health  
12 of caregivers of children birth through 5 years of age. The Division shall allocate these funds  
13 equally among the two local partnerships participating in the pilot program. The Wake County  
14 Smart Start and the Richmond County Partnership for Children shall submit a report on the pilot  
15 program to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services and the  
16 Fiscal Research Division by September 30, 2024. The report shall include, at a minimum, the  
17 following:  
18 (1) The outcomes achieved from the pilot program.  
19 (2) A plan outlining the potential for replication across other counties, including  
20 cost-modeling recommendations.  
21 (3) Any other information deemed relevant.  
22 **SECTION 2.** This act becomes effective July 1, 2023.

