

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1605

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide loan repayment incentives for physician assistants, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2017

Ms. BASS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide loan repayment incentives for physician assistants, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Physician Assistant
5 Education Public Health Initiatives Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. IMPROVEMENT ACTIVITY CREDIT FOR SERVICE AS**
2 **A CLINICAL PRECEPTOR FOR PHYSICIAN AS-**
3 **SISTANT TRAINING.**

4 Section 1848(q)(2)(B)(iii) of the Social Security Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 1395w-4(q)(2)(B)(iii)) is amended by adding
6 at the end the following new subclause:

7 “(VII) The subcategory of work-
8 force development, such as through
9 service as a preceptor at a clinical
10 training site for students training to
11 become physician assistants.”.

12 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF PRIMARY CARE TRAINING**
13 **AND ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS.**

14 Section 747(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42
15 U.S.C. 293k(c)) is amended—

16 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting after “2014”
17 the following: “and each of fiscal years 2018
18 through 2022”; and

19 (2) in paragraph (2), by striking “Fifteen” and
20 inserting “At least 15”.

21 **SEC. 4. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**
22 **EDUCATION.**

23 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
24 Human Services shall provide grants to eligible entities to
25 fund eligible researchers to increase research on physician
26 assistant education.

1 (b) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity desiring a grant
2 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
3 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing such
4 information as the Secretary may require.

5 (c) CONDITION OF RECEIPT.—As a condition of re-
6 ceipt of a grant under this section, an entity shall each
7 year award not fewer than eight eligible researchers funds
8 to support physician assistant education research.

9 (d) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—An entity receiving a
10 grant under this section shall provide to the Secretary
11 with respect to each year that such entity receives funds
12 under this section a report on the activities conducted
13 using such funds, including—

14 (1) the number of researchers supported during
15 such year by such entity using such funds;

16 (2) a list of the researchers counted under
17 paragraph (1), organized by researcher, including—

18 (A) the institution such researcher is affili-
19 ated with; and

20 (B) the research topic of such researcher;

21 (3) citations to published clinical and scientific
22 research by researchers described in paragraph (1)
23 that is attributable to support under this section;

24 (4) an evaluation of the benefits of grants
25 under this section; and

1 (5) any other information the Secretary may re-
2 quest.

3 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 (1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
5 ty” means an organization that—

6 (A) is a nonprofit organization; and

7 (B) has demonstrated expertise in physi-
8 cian assistant education and faculty develop-
9 ment.

10 (2) ELIGIBLE RESEARCHER.—The term “eligi-
11 ble researcher” means, with respect to an eligible en-
12 tity, a researcher that—

13 (A) has demonstrated expertise in physi-
14 cian assistant education and faculty develop-
15 ment; and

16 (B) at such time and in such manner as
17 such entity may require, provides such entity
18 with a research proposal on improving physician
19 assistant education and faculty development.

20 (3) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION.—The
21 term “physician assistant education” means select-
22 ing, educating, and graduating students in accred-
23 ited graduate physician assistant educational pro-
24 grams.

1 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

3 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
4 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
5 necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years
6 2018 through 2022.

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