

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7815

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants to expand and improve maternal health care services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 22, 2024

Ms. WATERS (for herself, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. NORTON, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. BROWN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. CARSON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. COHEN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. TRONE, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. ADAMS, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration, to award grants to expand and improve maternal health care services, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Mamas and Babies
3 in Underserved Communities Act of 2024”.

4 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE MATERNAL**
5 **HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN UNDERSERVED**
6 **COMMUNITIES.**

7 Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
8 241 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 317K
9 of such Act (247b–12) the following:

10 **“SEC. 317K–1. GRANTS TO EXPAND AND IMPROVE MATER-**
11 **NAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES IN UNDER-**
12 **SERVED COMMUNITIES.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award
14 grants to eligible entities—

15 “(1) to expand maternal health care services,
16 including prenatal care, postnatal care for infants,
17 and postpartum care for mothers;

18 “(2) to improve the quality of such services;

19 “(3) to improve health outcomes for women and
20 infants receiving such services; and

21 “(4) to reduce disparities in access to care, in
22 the quality of services received, and in health out-
23 comes for women and infants in need of such serv-
24 ices.

25 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—In this section, the term
26 ‘eligible entity’ means a public or nonprofit private health

1 care provider that serves one or more minority, low-in-
2 come, or medically underserved communities.

3 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
4 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
5 that, as determined by the Secretary—

6 “(1) primarily serve minority, low-income, or
7 medically underserved communities;

8 “(2) are led by individuals who have lived, were
9 educated, or currently reside in the communities
10 served; and

11 “(3) are geographically located in the commu-
12 nities served.

13 “(d) CONDITIONS FOR RECEIVING GRANTS.—As a
14 condition on receipt of a grant under this section, an eligi-
15 ble entity shall agree—

16 “(1) to provide the health care services sup-
17 ported through the grant in a culturally and linguis-
18 tically appropriate manner; and

19 “(2) to limit the percentage of grant funds used
20 for administrative expenses to not more than 10 per-
21 cent.

22 “(e) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant under this sec-
23 tion, an eligible entity shall submit an application at such
24 time, in such manner, and containing such information
25 and assurances as the Secretary may require.

1 “(f) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall require
2 grantees under this section—

3 “(1) to maximize the coordination of activities
4 funded through this section with other federally
5 funded maternal health care activities; and

6 “(2) to minimize the duplication of such activi-
7 ties.

8 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) The term ‘medically underserved commu-
10 nity’ has the meaning given to such term in section
11 799B.

12 “(2) The terms ‘postnatal’ and ‘postpartum’
13 refer to the period of 12 months following an in-
14 fant’s birth.

15 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
16 carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-
17 priated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years
18 2025 through 2029.”.

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