

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2533

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to allow National Health Service Corps members to provide obligated service as behavioral and mental health professionals at schools, other community-based settings, or patient homes, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2018

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend title III of the Public Health Service Act to allow National Health Service Corps members to provide obligated service as behavioral and mental health professionals at schools, other community-based settings, or patient homes, 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 “Improving Access to
5 Mental Health Services Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS BEHAVIORAL**
2 **AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS PRO-**
3 **VIDING OBLIGATED SERVICE IN SCHOOLS,**
4 **OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED SETTINGS, AND**
5 **PATIENT HOMES.**

6 Subpart III of part D of title III of the Public Health
7 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254*l* et seq.) is amended by adding
8 at the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 338N. BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFES-**
10 **SIONALS PROVIDING OBLIGATED SERVICE IN**
11 **SCHOOLS, OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED SET-**
12 **TINGS, AND PATIENT HOMES.**

13 **“(a) SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY-BASED SETTINGS.—**
14 An entity, to which a Corps member is assigned under
15 section 333, may direct such Corps member to provide
16 service as a behavioral and mental health professional at
17 schools or other community-based settings located in
18 health professional shortage areas.

19 **“(b) PATIENT HOMES.—**An entity, to which a Corps
20 member is assigned under section 333, may direct such
21 Corps member to provide service as a behavioral and men-
22 tal health professional through visiting the home of a pa-
23 tient located in a health professional shortage area.

24 **“(c) OBLIGATED SERVICE.—**Any service described in
25 subsection (a) or (b) that a Corps member provides may
26 count towards such Corps member’s completion of any ob-

1 ligated service requirements under the Scholarship Pro-
2 gram or the Loan Repayment Program. The Secretary
3 shall not impose any maximum limitation on the number
4 of hours of service described in subsection (a) or (b) that
5 a Corps member may count towards completing such obli-
6 gated service requirements.

7 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The authorization
8 under subsection (a) or (b) shall be notwithstanding any
9 other provision of this subpart or subpart II.”.

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