

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3497

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to award grants to public institutions of higher education located in a covered State, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 13 (legislative day, JANUARY 10), 2022

Mr. INHOFE (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to award grants to public institutions of higher education located in a covered State, 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 “Medical Student Edu-
5 cation Authorization Act of 2022”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Access to high quality primary care is asso-
2 ciated with improved health outcomes and lower
3 health care costs.

4 (2) Substantial disparities exist in the distribu-
5 tion of primary care providers.

6 (3) Shortages of health care providers affect
7 Tribal, rural, and medically underserved commu-
8 nities more than the populations of more densely
9 populated areas, resulting in such communities expe-
10 riencing significant health challenges and disparities.

11 (4) American Indian, Alaskan Natives, and Na-
12 tive Hawaiians tend to have lower health status,
13 lower life expectancy, and disproportionate disease
14 burden when compared to other Americans.

15 (5) Having training experiences in, living
16 among, and being a member of Tribal, rural, and
17 medically underserved communities increases cul-
18 tural awareness and can influence career choice for
19 physicians to better serve such populations.

20 (6) Research shows there is a relationship be-
21 tween the characteristics of a physician and the
22 eventual practice location, including being part of an
23 underrepresented minority or growing up in a rural
24 area.

1 **SEC. 3. EDUCATION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PRIMARY**
2 **HEALTH SERVICE FOR UNDERSERVED POPU-**
3 **LATIONS.**

4 Part B of title VII of the Public Health Service Act
5 (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
6 the following:

7 **“SEC. 742. EDUCATION PROGRAM TO SUPPORT PRIMARY**
8 **HEALTH SERVICE FOR UNDERSERVED POPU-**
9 **LATIONS.**

10 “(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary, acting
11 through the Administrator of the Health Resources and
12 Services Administration, shall establish a grant program
13 to award grants to public institutions of higher education
14 located in a covered State to carry out the activities de-
15 scribed in subsection (d) for the purposes of—

16 “(1) expanding and supporting education for
17 medical students who are preparing to become physi-
18 cians in a covered State; and

19 “(2) preparing and encouraging each such stu-
20 dent training in a covered State to serve Tribal,
21 rural, or medically underserved communities as a
22 primary care physician after completing such train-
23 ing.

24 “(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—In order to be eligible to receive
25 a grant under this section, a public institution of higher

1 education shall submit an application to the Secretary that
2 includes—

3 “(1) a certification that such institution will use
4 amounts provided to the institution to carry out the
5 activities described in subsection (d); and

6 “(2) a description of how such institution will
7 carry out such activities.

8 “(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-
9 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to public institutions
10 of higher education that—

11 “(1) are located in a State with not fewer than
12 2 federally recognized Tribes; and

13 “(2) demonstrate a public-private partnership.

14 “(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—An eligible entity
15 that receives a grant under this section shall use the funds
16 made available under such grant to carry out the following
17 activities:

18 “(1) Support or expand community-based expe-
19 riential training for medical students who will prac-
20 tice in or serve Tribal, rural, and medically under-
21 served communities.

22 “(2) Develop and operate programs to train
23 medical students in primary care services.

24 “(3) Develop and implement curricula that—

1 “(A) includes a defined set of clinical and
2 community-based training activities that em-
3 phasize care for Tribal, rural, or medically un-
4 derserved communities;

5 “(B) is applicable to primary care practice
6 with respect to individuals from Tribal, rural,
7 or medically underserved communities;

8 “(C) identifies and addresses challenges to
9 health equity, including the needs of Tribal,
10 rural, and medically underserved communities;

11 “(D) supports the use of telehealth tech-
12 nologies and practices;

13 “(E) considers social determinants of
14 health in care plan development;

15 “(F) integrates behavioral health care into
16 primary care practice, including prevention and
17 treatment of opioid disorders and other sub-
18 stance use disorders;

19 “(G) promotes interprofessional training
20 that supports a patient-centered model of care;
21 and

22 “(H) builds cultural and linguistic com-
23 petency.

24 “(4) Increase the capacity of faculty to imple-
25 ment the curricula described in paragraph (3).

1 “(5) Develop or expand strategic partnerships
2 to improve health outcomes for individuals from
3 Tribal, rural, and medically underserved commu-
4 nities, including with—

5 “(A) federally recognized Tribes, Tribal
6 colleges, and Tribal organizations;

7 “(B) Federally-qualified health centers;

8 “(C) rural health clinics;

9 “(D) Indian health programs;

10 “(E) primary care delivery sites and sys-
11 tems; and

12 “(F) other community-based organizations.

13 “(6) Develop a plan to track graduates’ chosen
14 specialties for residency and the States in which
15 such residency programs are located.

16 “(7) Develop, implement, and evaluate methods
17 to improve recruitment and retention of medical stu-
18 dents from Tribal, rural, and medically underserved
19 communities.

20 “(8) Train and support instructors to serve
21 Tribal, rural, and medically underserved commu-
22 nities.

23 “(9) Prepare medical students for transition
24 into primary care residency training and future
25 practice.

1 “(10) Provide scholarships to medical students.

2 “(e) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant under this section
3 shall be awarded for a period of not more than 5 years.

4 “(f) GRANT AMOUNT.—Each fiscal year, the amount
5 of a grant made to a public institution of higher education
6 under this section shall be in amount that is not less than
7 \$1,000,000.

8 “(g) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—Each public insti-
9 tution of higher education that receives a grant under this
10 section shall provide, from non-Federal sources, an
11 amount equal to or greater than 10 percent of the total
12 amount of Federal funds provided to the institution each
13 fiscal year during the period of the grant (which may be
14 provided in cash or in kind).

15 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 “(1) COVERED STATE.—The term ‘covered
17 State’ means a State that is in the top quartile of
18 States by projected unmet demand for primary care
19 providers, as determined by the Secretary.

20 “(2) FEDERALLY-QUALIFIED HEALTH CEN-
21 TER.—The term ‘Federally-qualified health center’
22 has the meaning given such term in section
23 1905(l)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act.

24 “(3) INDIAN HEALTH PROGRAM.—The term
25 ‘Indian health program’ has the meaning given such

1 term in section 4 of the Indian Health Care Im-
2 provement Act.

3 “(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

4 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
5 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
6 er Education Act of 1965, provided that such insti-
7 tution is public in nature.

8 “(5) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—

9 The term ‘medically underserved community’ has the
10 meaning given such term in section 799B.

11 “(6) RURAL HEALTH CLINIC.—The term ‘rural

12 health clinic’ has the meaning given such term in
13 section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act.

14 “(7) RURAL POPULATION.—The term ‘rural

15 population’ means the population of a geographical
16 area located—

17 “(A) in a non-metropolitan county; or

18 “(B) in a metropolitan county designated
19 as rural by the Administrator of the Health Re-
20 sources and Services Administration.

21 “(8) TRIBAL POPULATION.—The term ‘Tribal

22 population’ means the population of any Indian
23 Tribe recognized by the Secretary of the Interior
24 pursuant to section 104 of the Federally Recognized
25 Indian Tribe List Act of 1994.

1 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
2 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
3 \$150,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2023 through
4 2027.”.

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