Calendar No. 424

105TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 1754

[Report No. 105–220]

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to consolidate and reauthorize health professions and minority and disadvantaged health education programs, and for other purposes.

JUNE 23, 1998

Reported with an amendment

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To amend the Public Health Service Act to consolidate and reauthorize health professions and minority and disadvantaged health education programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 1998

Mr. FRIST (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JEFFORDS, Mr. BINGAMAN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. INOUYE, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. FAIRCLOTH, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. ENZI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Human Resources

JUNE 23, 1998

Reported by Mr. JEFFORDS, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to consolidate and reauthorize health professions and minority and disadvantaged health education programs, 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,*

~~SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.~~

~~(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998".~~

~~(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:~~

~~Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.~~

~~TITLE I—HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS~~

~~Subtitle A—Health Professions Education Programs~~

~~Sec. 101. Under-represented minority health professions grant program.~~
~~Sec. 102. Training in primary care medicine and dentistry.~~
~~Sec. 103. Interdisciplinary, community-based linkages.~~
~~Sec. 104. Health professions workforce information and analysis.~~
~~Sec. 105. Public health workforce development.~~
~~Sec. 106. General provisions.~~
~~Sec. 107. Preference in certain programs.~~
~~Sec. 108. Definitions.~~
~~Sec. 109. Technical amendment on National Health Service Corps.~~
~~Sec. 110. Savings provision.~~

~~Subtitle B—Nursing Workforce Development~~

~~Sec. 121. Short title.~~
~~Sec. 122. Purpose.~~
~~Sec. 123. Amendments to Public Health Service Act.~~
~~Sec. 124. Savings provision.~~

~~Subtitle C—Financial Assistance~~

~~CHAPTER 1—SCHOOL-BASED REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS~~

~~Sec. 131. Primary care loan program.~~
~~Sec. 132. Loans for disadvantaged students.~~
~~Sec. 133. Student loans regarding schools of nursing.~~
~~Sec. 134. General provisions.~~

~~CHAPTER 2—INSURED HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS TO GRADUATE STUDENTS~~

~~Sec. 141. Health Education Assistance Loan Program.~~
~~Sec. 142. Heal lender and holder performance standards.~~
~~Sec. 143. Reauthorization.~~
~~Sec. 144. HEAL bankruptcy.~~
~~Sec. 145. HEAL refinancing.~~

~~TITLE II—OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH~~

~~Sec. 201. Revision and extension of programs of Office of Minority Health.~~

~~TITLE III—SELECTED INITIATIVES~~

~~Sec. 301. State offices of rural health.~~
~~Sec. 302. Demonstration projects regarding Alzheimer's Disease.~~
~~Sec. 303. Project grants for immunization services.~~

~~TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS~~

~~Sec. 401. Technical corrections regarding Public Law 103–183.~~
~~Sec. 402. Miscellaneous amendments regarding PHS commissioned officers.~~
~~Sec. 403. Clinical traineeships.~~
~~Sec. 404. Project grants for screenings, referrals, and education regarding lead poisoning.~~
~~Sec. 405. Project grants for preventive health services regarding tuberculosis.~~
~~Sec. 406. Certain authorities of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.~~
~~Sec. 407. Community programs on domestic violence.~~
~~Sec. 408. State loan repayment program.~~
~~Sec. 409. Construction of regional centers for research on primates.~~
~~Sec. 410. Peer review.~~
~~Sec. 411. Funding for trauma care.~~
~~Sec. 412. Health information and health promotion.~~
~~Sec. 413. Emergency medical services for children.~~
~~Sec. 414. Administration of certain requirements.~~
~~Sec. 415. Aids drug assistance program.~~

~~TITLE I—HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS~~

~~Subtitle A—Health Professions Education Programs~~

~~SEC. 101. UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS GRANT PROGRAM.~~

~~(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:~~

~~"PART B—HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING FOR DIVERSITY~~

~~"SEC. 736. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to designated health professions schools described in subsection (c) for the purpose of assisting the schools in supporting programs of excellence in health professions education for under-represented minority individuals.~~

~~"(b) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may not make a grant under subsection (a) unless the designated health professions school involved agrees, subject to subsection (c)(1)(C), to expend the grant—~~

~~"(1) to develop a large competitive applicant pool through linkages with institutions of higher education, local school districts, and other community-based entities and establish an education pipeline for health professions careers;~~

~~"(2) to establish, strengthen, or expand programs to enhance the academic performance of under-represented minority students attending the school;~~

~~"(3) to improve the capacity of such school to train, recruit, and retain under-represented minority faculty including the payment of such stipends and fellowships as the Secretary may determine appropriate;~~

~~"(4) to carry out activities to improve the information resources, clinical education, curricula and cultural competence of the graduates of the school, as it relates to minority health issues;~~

~~"(5) to facilitate faculty and student research on health issues particularly affecting under-represented minority groups, including research on issues relating to the delivery of health care; and~~

~~"(6) to carry out a program to train students of the school in providing health services to a significant number of under-represented minority individuals through training provided to such students at community-based health facilities that—~~

~~"(A) provide such health services; and~~

~~"(B) are located at a site remote from the main site of the teaching facilities of the school.~~

~~"(c) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—~~

~~"(1) DESIGNATED SCHOOLS.—~~

~~"(A) IN GENERAL.—The designated health professions schools referred to in subsection (a) are such schools that meet each of the conditions specified in subparagraphs (B) and (C), and that—~~

~~"(i) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (2)(A);~~

~~"(ii) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (3);~~

~~"(iii) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (4); or~~

~~"(iv) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (5).~~

~~"(B) GENERAL CONDITIONS.—The conditions specified in this subparagraph are that a designated health professions school—~~

~~"(i) has a significant number of under-represented minority individuals enrolled in the school, including individuals accepted for enrollment in the school;~~

~~"(ii) has been effective in assisting under-represented minority students of the school to complete the program of education and receive the degree involved;~~

~~"(iii) has been effective in recruiting under-represented minority individuals to enroll in and graduate from the school, including providing scholarships and other financial assistance to such individuals and encouraging under-represented minority students from all levels of the educational~~

~~pipeline to pursue health professions careers; and~~

~~"(iv) has made significant recruitment efforts to increase the number of underrepresented minority individuals serving in faculty or administrative positions at the school.~~

~~"(C) CONSORTIUM.—The condition specified in this subparagraph is that, in accordance with subsection (e)(1), the designated health profession school involved has with other health profession schools (designated or otherwise) formed a consortium to carry out the purposes described in subsection (b) at the schools of the consortium.~~

~~"(D) APPLICATION OF CRITERIA TO OTHER PROGRAMS.—In the case of any criteria established by the Secretary for purposes of determining whether schools meet the conditions described in subparagraph (B), this section may not, with respect to racial and ethnic minorities, be construed to authorize, require, or prohibit the use of such criteria in any program other than the program established in this section.~~

~~"(2) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT CERTAIN HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—~~

~~"(A) CONDITIONS.—The conditions specified in this subparagraph are that a designated health professions school—~~

~~"(i) is a school described in section 799B(1); and~~

~~"(ii) received a contract under section 788B for fiscal year 1987, as such section was in effect for such fiscal year.~~

~~"(B) USE OF GRANT.—In addition to the purposes described in subsection (b), a grant under subsection (a) to a designated health professions school meeting the conditions described in subparagraph (A) may be expended—~~

~~"(i) to develop a plan to achieve institutional improvements, including financial independence, to enable the school to support programs of excellence in health professions education for under-represented minority individuals; and~~

~~"(ii) to provide improved access to the library and informational resources of the school.~~

~~"(C) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of paragraph (1)(C) shall not apply to a historically black college or university that receives funding under paragraphs (2) or (5).~~

~~"(3) HISPANIC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The conditions specified in this paragraph are that—~~

~~"(A) with respect to Hispanic individuals, each of clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) applies to the designated health professions school involved;~~

~~"(B) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that the school will, in carrying out the duties described in subsection (b), give priority to carrying out the duties with respect to Hispanic individuals; and~~

~~"(C) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that—~~

~~"(i) the school will establish an arrangement with 1 or more public or nonprofit community based Hispanic serving organizations, or public or nonprofit private institutions of higher education, including schools of nursing, whose enroll-~~

~~ment of students has traditionally included a significant number of Hispanic individuals, the purposes of which will be to carry out a program—~~

~~"(I) to identify Hispanic students who are interested in a career in the health profession involved; and~~

~~"(II) to facilitate the educational preparation of such students to enter the health professions school; and~~

~~"(ii) the school will make efforts to recruit Hispanic students, including students who have participated in the undergraduate or other matriculation program carried out under arrangements established by the school pursuant to clause (i)(II) and will assist Hispanic students regarding the completion of the educational requirements for a degree from the school.~~

~~"(4) NATIVE AMERICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Subject to subsection (c), the conditions specified in this paragraph are that—~~

~~"(A) with respect to Native Americans, each of clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph~~

~~(1)(B) applies to the designated health professions school involved;~~

~~"(B) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that the school will, in carrying out the duties described in subsection (b), give priority to carrying out the duties with respect to Native Americans; and~~

~~"(C) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that—~~

~~"(i) the school will establish an arrangement with 1 or more public or nonprofit private institutions of higher education, including schools of nursing, whose enrollment of students has traditionally included a significant number of Native Americans, the purpose of which arrangement will be to carry out a program—~~

~~"(I) to identify Native American students, from the institutions of higher education referred to in clause (i), who are interested in health professions careers; and~~

~~"(II) to facilitate the educational preparation of such students to enter~~

~~the designated health professions school; and~~

~~"(ii) the designated health professions school will make efforts to recruit Native American students, including students who have participated in the undergraduate program carried out under arrangements established by the school pursuant to clause (i) and will assist Native American students regarding the completion of the educational requirements for a degree from the designated health professions school.~~

~~"(5) OTHER CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The conditions specified in this paragraph are—~~

~~"(A) with respect to other centers of excellence, the conditions described in clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (1)(B); and~~

~~"(B) that the health professions school involved has an enrollment of under-represented minorities above the national average for such enrollments of health professions schools.~~

~~"(d) DESIGNATION AS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Any designated health professions school receiving a grant under subsection (a) and meeting the conditions described in para-~~

~~graph (2) or (5) of subsection (c) shall, for purposes of this section, be designated by the Secretary as a Center of Excellence in Under-Represented Minority Health Professions Education.~~

~~"(2) HISPANIC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Any designated health professions school receiving a grant under subsection (a) and meeting the conditions described in subsection (c)(3) shall, for purposes of this section, be designated by the Secretary as a Hispanic Center of Excellence in Health Professions Education.~~

~~"(3) NATIVE AMERICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Any designated health professions school receiving a grant under subsection (a) and meeting the conditions described in subsection (c)(4) shall, for purposes of this section, be designated by the Secretary as a Native American Center of Excellence in Health Professions Education. Any consortium receiving such a grant pursuant to subsection (c) shall, for purposes of this section, be so designated.~~

~~"(c) AUTHORITY REGARDING NATIVE AMERICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—With respect to meeting the conditions specified in subsection (c)(4), the Secretary may make a grant under subsection (a) to a designated~~

~~health professions school that does not meet such conditions if—~~

~~"(1) the school has formed a consortium in accordance with subsection (d)(1); and~~

~~"(2) the schools of the consortium collectively meet such conditions, without regard to whether the schools individually meet such conditions.~~

~~"(f) DURATION OF GRANT.—The period during which payments are made under a grant under subsection (a) may not exceed 5 years. Such payments shall be subject to annual approval by the Secretary and to the availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to make the payments.~~

~~"(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:~~

~~"(1) DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOL.—~~

~~"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'health professions school' means, except as provided in subparagraph (B), a school of medicine, a school of osteopathic medicine, a school of dentistry, a school of pharmacy, or a graduate program in behavioral or mental health.~~

~~"(B) EXCEPTION.—The definition established in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to~~

the use of the term 'designated health professions school' for purposes of subsection (c)(2).

"(2) PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE.—The term 'program of excellence' means any program carried out by a designated health professions school with a grant made under subsection (a), if the program is for purposes for which the school involved is authorized in subsection (b) or (c) to expend the grant.

"(3) NATIVE AMERICANS.—The term 'Native Americans' means American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians.

"(h) FUNDING.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of making grants under subsection (a), there authorized to be appropriated $26,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

"(2) ALLOCATIONS.—Based on the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, one of the following subparagraphs shall apply:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year are less than $24,000,000—

~~"(i) the Secretary shall make available $12,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(2)(A); and~~

~~"(ii) and available after grants are made with funds under clause (i), the Secretary shall make available—~~

~~"(I) 60 percent of such amount for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (c) (including meeting the conditions under subsection (c)); and~~

~~"(II) 40 percent of such amount for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(5).~~

~~"(B) FUNDING IN EXCESS OF $24,000,000.—If amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year exceed $24,000,000 but are less than $30,000,000—~~

~~"(i) 80 percent of such excess amounts shall be made available for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the requirements described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (c) (including meeting conditions pursuant to subsection (c)); and~~

~~"(ii) 20 percent of such excess amount shall be made available for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(5).~~

~~"(C) FUNDING IN EXCESS OF $30,000,000.—If amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year exceed $30,000,000, the Secretary shall make available—~~

~~"(i) not less than $12,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(2)(A);~~

~~"(ii) not less than $12,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in paragraph (3) or (4) of sub-~~

~~section (c) (including meeting conditions pursuant to subsection (c));~~

~~"(iii) not less than $6,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(5); and~~

~~"(iv) after grants are made with funds under clauses (i) through (iii), any remaining funds for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in paragraph (2)(A), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (c).~~

~~"(3) NO LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting the centers of excellence referred to in this section to the designated amount, or to preclude such entities from competing for other grants under this section.~~

~~"(4) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—~~

~~"(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to activities for which a grant made under this part are authorized to be expended, the Secretary may not make such a grant to a center of excellence for any fiscal year unless the center agrees to maintain expenditures of non-Federal amounts~~

~~for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the center for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the school receives such a grant.~~

~~"(B) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—With respect to any Federal amounts received by a center of excellence and available for carrying out activities for which a grant under this part is authorized to be expended, the Secretary may not make such a grant to the center for any fiscal year unless the center agrees that the center will, before expending the grant, expend the Federal amounts obtained from sources other than the grant.~~

~~"SEC. 737. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS.~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a grant to an eligible entity (as defined in subsection (d)(1)) under this section for the awarding of scholarships by schools to any full-time student who is an eligible individual as defined in subsection (d). Such scholarships may be expended only for tuition expenses, other reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses incurred in the attendance of such school.~~

~~"(b) PREFERENCE IN PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS.—The Secretary may not make a grant to an entity under subsection (a) unless the health professions and nursing schools involved agree that, in providing scholarships pursuant to the grant, the schools will give preference to students for whom the costs of attending the schools would constitute a severe financial hardship and, notwithstanding other provisions of this section, to former recipients of scholarships under sections 736 and 740(d)(2)(B) (as such sections existed on the day before the date of enactment of this section).~~

~~"(c) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—In awarding grants to eligible entities that are health professions and nursing schools, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities based on the proportion of graduating students going into primary care, the proportion of underrepresented minority students, and the proportion of graduates working in medically underserved communities.~~

~~"(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:~~

~~"(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term 'eligible entities' means an entity that—~~

~~"(A) is a school of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing (as defined in section 801), pharmacy, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, public health, or al-~~

lied health, a school offering a graduate program in behavioral and mental health practice, or an entity providing programs for the training of physician assistants; and

"(B) is carrying out a program for recruiting and retaining students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including students who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups.

"(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'eligible individual' means an individual who—

"(A) is from a disadvantaged background;

"(B) has a financial need for a scholarship; and

"(C) is enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at an eligible health professions or nursing school as a full-time student in a program leading to a degree in a health profession or nursing.

"SEC. 738. LOAN REPAYMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS REGARDING FACULTY POSITIONS.

"(a) LOAN REPAYMENTS.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program of entering into contracts with individuals described in paragraph (2) under which the individuals agree to serve as mem-

~~bers of the faculties of schools described in paragraph (3) in consideration of the Federal Government agreeing to pay, for each year of such service, not more than $20,000 of the principal and interest of the educational loans of such individuals.~~

~~"(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The individuals referred to in paragraph (1) are individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who—~~

~~"(A) have a degree in medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing, or another health profession;~~

~~"(B) are enrolled in an approved graduate training program in medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing, or other health profession; or~~

~~"(C) are enrolled as full-time students—~~

~~"(i) in an accredited (as determined by the Secretary) school described in paragraph (3); and~~

~~"(ii) in the final year of a course of a study or program, offered by such institution and approved by the Secretary, leading to a degree from such a school.~~

~~"(3) ELIGIBLE HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOLS.—The schools described in this paragraph~~

are schools of medicine, nursing (as schools of nursing are defined in section 801), osteopathic medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, allied health, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, or public health, or schools offering graduate programs in behavioral and mental health.

"(4) REQUIREMENTS REGARDING FACULTY POSITIONS.—The Secretary may not enter into a contract under paragraph (1) unless—

"(A) the individual involved has entered into a contract with a school described in paragraph (3) to serve as a member of the faculty of the school for not less than 2 years; and

"(B) the contract referred to in subparagraph (A) provides that—

"(i) the school will, for each year for which the individual will serve as a member of the faculty under the contract with the school, make payments of the principal and interest due on the educational loans of the individual for such year in an amount equal to the amount of such payments made by the Secretary for the year;

"(ii) the payments made by the school pursuant to clause (i) on behalf of the indi-

~~vidual will be in addition to the pay that the individual would otherwise receive for serving as a member of such faculty; and~~

~~"(iii) the school, in making a determination of the amount of compensation to be provided by the school to the individual for serving as a member of the faculty, will make the determination without regard to the amount of payments made (or to be made) to the individual by the Federal Government under paragraph (1).~~

~~"(5) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—The provisions of sections 338C, 338G, and 338I shall apply to the program established in paragraph (1) to the same extent and in the same manner as such provisions apply to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program established in subpart III of part D of title III, including the applicability of provisions regarding reimbursements for increased tax liability and regarding bankruptcy.~~

~~"(6) WAIVER REGARDING SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary may waive the requirement established in paragraph (4)(B) if the Secretary determines that the requirement will impose an undue financial hardship on the school involved.~~

~~"(b) FELLOWSHIPS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities to assist such entities in increasing the number of underrepresented minority individuals who are members of the faculty of such schools.~~

~~"(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under this subsection, an entity shall provide an assurance, in the application submitted by the entity, that—~~

~~"(A) amounts received under such a grant or contract will be used to award a fellowship to an individual only if the individual meets the requirements of paragraphs (3) and (4); and~~

~~"(B) each fellowship awarded pursuant to the grant or contract will include—~~

~~"(i) a stipend in an amount not exceeding 50 percent of the regular salary of a similar faculty member for not to exceed 3 years of training; and~~

~~"(ii) an allowance for other expenses, such as travel to professional meetings and costs related to specialized training.~~

~~"(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under paragraph (1), an applicant~~

shall demonstrate to the Secretary that such applicant has or will have the ability to—

"(A) identify, recruit and select underrepresented minority individuals who have the potential for teaching, administration, or conducting research at a health professions institution;

"(B) provide such individuals with the skills necessary to enable them to secure a tenured faculty position at such institution, which may include training with respect to pedagogical skills, program administration, the design and conduct of research, grants writing, and the preparation of articles suitable for publication in peer reviewed journals;

"(C) provide services designed to assist such individuals in their preparation for an academic career, including the provision of counselors; and

"(D) provide health services to rural or medically underserved populations.

"(4) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under paragraph (1) an applicant shall—

"(A) provide an assurance that such applicant will make available (directly through cash

~~donations) $1 for every $1 of Federal funds received under this section for the fellowship;~~

~~"(B) provide an assurance that institutional support will be provided for the individual for the second and third years at a level that is equal to the total amount of institutional funds provided in the year in which the grant or contract was awarded;~~

~~"(C) provide an assurance that the individual that will receive the fellowship will be a member of the faculty of the applicant school; and~~

~~"(D) provide an assurance that the individual that will receive the fellowship will have, at a minimum, appropriate advanced preparation (such as a master's or doctoral degree) and special skills necessary to enable such individual to teach and practice.~~

~~"(5) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'underrepresented minority individuals' means individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups that are underrepresented in the health professions including nursing.~~

~~"SEC. 739. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS REGARDING INDIVIDUALS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS.~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—~~

~~"(1) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—For the purpose of assisting individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, as determined in accordance with criteria prescribed by the Secretary, to undertake education to enter a health profession, the Secretary may make grants to and enter into contracts with schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied health, chiropractic, and podiatric medicine, public and nonprofit private schools that offer graduate programs in behavioral and mental health, programs for the training of physician assistants, and other public or private nonprofit health or educational entities to assist in meeting the costs described in paragraph (2).~~

~~"(2) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.—A grant or contract under paragraph (1) may be used by the entity to meet the cost of—~~

~~"(A) identifying, recruiting, and selecting individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, as so determined, for education and training in a health profession;~~

~~"(B) facilitating the entry of such individuals into such a school;~~

~~"(C) providing counseling, mentoring, or other services designed to assist such individuals to complete successfully their education at such a school;~~

~~"(D) providing, for a period prior to the entry of such individuals into the regular course of education of such a school, preliminary education and health research training designed to assist them to complete successfully such regular course of education at such a school, or referring such individuals to institutions providing such preliminary education;~~

~~"(E) publicizing existing sources of financial aid available to students in the education program of such a school or who are undertaking training necessary to qualify them to enroll in such a program;~~

~~"(F) paying such scholarships as the Secretary may determine for such individuals for any period of health professions education at a health professions school;~~

~~"(G) paying such stipends as the Secretary may approve for such individuals for any period~~

of education in student-enhancement programs (other than regular courses) at any health professions school, except that such a stipend may not be provided to an individual for more than 12 months, and such a stipend shall be in an amount determined appropriate by the Secretary (notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding the amount of stipends);

"(H) carrying out programs under which such individuals gain experience regarding a career in a field of primary health care through working at facilities of public or private nonprofit community-based providers of primary health services; and

"(I) conducting activities to develop a larger and more competitive applicant pool through partnerships with institutions of higher education, school districts, and other community-based entities.

"(3) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'regular course of education of such a school' as used in subparagraph (D) includes a graduate program in behavioral or mental health.

"(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDS.—In making awards to eligible entities under subsection (a)(1), the

~~Secretary shall give preference to approved applications for programs that involve a comprehensive approach by several public or nonprofit private health or educational entities to establish, enhance and expand educational programs that will result in the development of a competitive applicant pool of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who desire to pursue health professions careers. In considering awards for such a comprehensive partnership approach, the following shall apply with respect to the entity involved:~~

~~"(1) The entity shall have a demonstrated commitment to such approach through formal agreements that have common objectives with institutions of higher education, school districts, and other community-based entities.~~

~~"(2) Such formal agreements shall reflect the coordination of educational activities and support services, increased linkages, and the consolidation of resources within a specific geographic area.~~

~~"(3) The design of the educational activities involved shall provide for the establishment of a competitive health professions applicant pool of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds by enhancing the total preparation (academic and social) of such individuals to pursue a health professions career.~~

"(4) The programs or activities under the award shall focus on developing a culturally competent health care workforce that will serve the unserved and underserved populations within the geographic area.

"(c) EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall ensure that services and activities under subsection (a) are adequately allocated among the various racial and ethnic populations who are from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may require that an entity that applies for a grant or contract under subsection (a), provide non-Federal matching funds, as appropriate, to ensure the institutional commitment of the entity to the projects funded under the grant or contract. As determined by the Secretary, such non-Federal matching funds may be provided directly or through donations from public or private entities and may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

"SEC. 740. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.

"(a) SCHOLARSHIPS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 737, $37,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002. Of the amount ap-

~~propriated in any fiscal year, the Secretary shall ensure that not less than 16 percent shall be distributed to schools of nursing.~~

~~"(b) LOAN REPAYMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS.—For the purpose of carrying out section 738, there is authorized to be appropriated $1,100,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.~~

~~"(c) UNDERGRADUATE ASSISTANCE.—For the purpose of grants and contracts under section 739(a)(1), there is authorized to be appropriated $29,400,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002. The Secretary may use not to exceed 20 percent of the amount appropriated for a fiscal year under this subsection to provide scholarships under section 739(a)(2)(F).~~

~~"(d) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this part, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the efforts of the Secretary to address the need for a representative mix of individuals from historically minority health professions schools, or from institutions or other entities that historically or by geographic location have a demonstrated record of training or educat-~~

~~ing underrepresented minorities, within various health professions disciplines, on peer review councils.''.~~

~~(b) REPEAL.—~~

~~(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 795 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295n) is repealed.~~

~~(2) NONTERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The amendments made by this section shall not be construed to terminate agreements that, on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, are in effect pursuant to section 795 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 795) as such section existed on such date. Such agreements shall continue in effect in accordance with the terms of the agreements. With respect to compliance with such agreements, any period of practice as a provider of primary health services shall be counted towards the satisfaction of the requirement of practice pursuant to such section 795.~~

~~(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 481A(c)(3)(D)(i) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 287a–2(c)(3)(D)(i)) is amended by striking ''section 739'' and inserting ''part B of title VII''.~~

~~SEC. 102. TRAINING IN PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY.~~

~~Part C of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended—~~

~~(1) in the part heading by striking "**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**" and inserting "**FAMILY MEDICINE, GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE, GENERAL PEDIATRICS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, GENERAL DENTISTRY, AND PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**";~~

~~(2) by repealing section 746 (42 U.S.C. 293j);~~

~~(3) in section 747 (42 U.S.C. 293k)—~~

~~(A) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:~~

~~"SEC. 747. FAMILY MEDICINE, GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE, GENERAL PEDIATRICS, GENERAL DENTISTRY, PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY, AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.";~~

~~(B) in subsection (a)—~~

~~(i) in paragraph (1)—~~

~~(I) by inserting ", internal medicine, or pediatrics" after "family medicine"; and~~

~~(II) by inserting before the semicolon the following: "that emphasizes~~

~~training for the practice of family medicine, general internal medicine, or general pediatrics (as defined by the Secretary)'';~~

~~(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting '', general internal medicine, or general pediatrics'' before the semicolon;~~

~~(iii) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by inserting '', general internal medicine or general pediatrics'' after ''family medicine'';~~

~~(iv) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by inserting ''(including geriatrics) after ''family medicine'';~~

~~(v) in paragraph (3), by striking ''and'' at the end thereof;~~

~~(vi) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and~~

~~(vii) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraphs:~~

~~''(5) to meet the costs of projects to plan, develop, and operate or maintain programs for the training of physician assistants (as defined in section 799B), and for the training of individuals who will teach in programs to provide such training; and~~

~~"(6) to meet the costs of planning, developing, or operating programs, and to provide financial assistance to residents in such programs, of general dentistry or pediatric dentistry.~~

~~For purposes of paragraph (6), entities eligible for such grants or contracts shall include entities that have programs in dental schools, approved residency programs in the general or pediatric practice of dentistry, approved advanced education programs in the general or pediatric practice of dentistry, or approved residency programs in pediatric dentistry.";~~

~~(C) in subsection (b)—~~

~~(i) in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A), by inserting ", general internal medicine, or general pediatrics" after "family medicine";~~

~~(ii) in paragraph (2)—~~

~~(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or" at the end; and~~

~~(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and~~

~~(iii) by adding at the end the following:~~

~~"(3) PRIORITY IN MAKING AWARDS.—In making awards of grants and contracts under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to any qualified applicant for such an award that proposes a collaborative project between departments of primary care.";~~

~~(D) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;~~

~~(E) by inserting after subsection (b), the following new subsection:~~

~~"(c) PRIORITY.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to programs for the training of interns or residents, the Secretary shall give priority in awarding grants under this section to qualified applicants that have a record of training the greatest percentage of providers, or that have demonstrated significant improvements in the percentage of providers, which enter and remain in primary care practice or general or pediatric dentistry.~~

~~"(2) DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—With respect to programs for the training of interns, residents, or physician assistants, the Secretary shall give priority in awarding grants under this section to qualified applicants that have a record of training~~

~~individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among primary care practice or general or pediatric dentistry).~~

~~"(3) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section the Secretary shall give special consideration to projects which prepare practitioners to care for underserved populations and other high risk groups such as the elderly, individuals with HIV-AIDS, substance abusers, homeless, and victims of domestic violence."; and~~

~~(F) in subsection (c) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (D))—~~

~~(i) in paragraph (1), by striking "$54,000,000" and all that follows and inserting "$78,300,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002."; and~~

~~(ii) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:~~

~~"(2) ALLOCATION.—~~

~~"(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall make available—~~

~~"(i) not less than $49,300,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs of family medicine, of which not less than $8,600,000 shall be made available for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (b) for family medicine academic administrative units;~~

~~"(ii) not less than $17,700,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs of general internal medicine and general pediatrics;~~

~~"(iii) not less than $6,800,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs relating to physician assistants; and~~

~~"(iv) not less than $4,500,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs of general or pediatric dentistry.~~

~~"(B) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for any fiscal year are less than the amount required to comply with subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ratably reduce the amount to be made available~~

~~under each of clauses (i) through (iv) of such subparagraph accordingly.''; and~~

~~(4) by repealing sections 748 through 752 (42 U.S.C. 293l through 293p) and inserting the following:~~

~~''SEC. 748. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAINING IN PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY.~~

~~''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Committee').~~

~~''(b) COMPOSITION.—~~

~~''(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine the appropriate number of individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee. Such individuals shall not be officers or employees of the Federal Government.~~

~~''(2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Committee from among individuals who are health professionals. In making such appointments, the Secretary shall ensure a fair balance between the health professions, that at least 75 percent of the~~

~~members of the Advisory Committee are health professionals, a broad geographic representation of members and a balance between urban and rural members. Members shall be appointed based on their competence, interest, and knowledge of the mission of the profession involved.~~

~~"(3) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—In appointing the members of the Advisory Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure the adequate representation of women and minorities.~~

~~"(e) TERMS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that of the members first appointed—~~

~~"(A) ⅓ of such members shall serve for a term of 1 year;~~

~~"(B) ⅓ of such members shall serve for a term of 2 years; and~~

~~"(C) ⅓ of such members shall serve for a term of 3 years.~~

~~"(2) VACANCIES.—~~

~~"(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made~~

~~and shall be subject to any conditions which applied with respect to the original appointment.~~

~~"(B) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.~~

~~"(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall—~~

~~"(1) provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary concerning policy and program development and other matters of significance concerning the activities under section 747; and~~

~~"(2) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Secretary, and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report describing the activities of the Committee, including findings and recommendations made by the Committee concerning the activities under section 747.~~

~~"(e) MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS.—~~

~~"(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less than 2 times each year. Such meetings shall be held jointly with other related entities established under this title where appropriate.~~

~~"(2) DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 14 days prior to the convening of a meeting under paragraph (1), the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available an agenda of the matters to be considered by the Advisory Committee at such meeting. At any such meeting, the Advisory Council shall distribute materials with respect to the issues to be addressed at the meeting. Not later than 30 days after the adjourning of such a meeting, the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available a summary of the meeting and any actions taken by the Committee based upon the meeting.~~

~~"(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—~~

~~"(1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Advisory Committee shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Committee.~~

~~"(2) EXPENSES.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of~~

chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.

"(g) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall apply to the Advisory Committee under this section only to the extent that the provisions of such Act do not conflict with the requirements of this section.".

SEC. 103. INTERDISCIPLINARY, COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES.

Part D of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

"PART D—INTERDISCIPLINARY, COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES

"SEC. 750. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

"(a) COLLABORATION.—To be eligible to receive assistance under this part, an academic institution shall use such assistance in collaboration with 2 or more disciplines.

"(b) ACTIVITIES.—An entity shall use assistance under this part to carry out innovative demonstration projects for strategic workforce supplementation activities as needed to meet national goals for interdisciplinary, community-based linkages. Such assistance may be used consistent with this part—

"(1) to develop and support training programs;

"(2) for faculty development;

1 ~~"(3) for model demonstration programs;~~

2 ~~"(4) for the provision of stipends for fellowship~~

3 ~~trainees;~~

4 ~~"(5) to provide technical assistance; and~~

5 ~~"(6) for other activities that will produce out-~~

6 ~~comes consistent with the purposes of this part.~~

7 ~~**"SEC. 751. AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS.**~~

8 ~~"(a) AUTHORITY FOR PROVISION OF FINANCIAL AS-~~

9 ~~SISTANCE.—~~

10 ~~"(1) ASSISTANCE FOR PLANNING, DEVELOP-~~

11 ~~MENT, AND OPERATION OF PROGRAMS.—~~

12 ~~"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall~~

13 ~~award grants to and enter into contracts with~~

14 ~~schools of medicine and osteopathic medicine,~~

15 ~~and incorporated consortia made up of such~~

16 ~~schools, or the parent institutions of such~~

17 ~~schools, for projects for the planning, develop-~~

18 ~~ment and operation of area health education~~

19 ~~center programs that—~~

20 ~~"(i) improve the recruitment, distribu-~~

21 ~~tion, supply, quality and efficiency of per-~~

22 ~~sonnel providing health services in under-~~

23 ~~served rural and urban areas and person-~~

24 ~~nel providing health services to populations~~

~~having demonstrated serious unmet health care needs;~~

~~"(ii) increase the number of primary care physicians and other primary care providers who provide services in underserved areas through the offering of an educational continuum of health career recruitment through clinical education concerning underserved areas in a comprehensive health workforce strategy;~~

~~"(iii) carry out recruitment and health career awareness programs to recruit individuals from underserved areas and underrepresented populations, including minority and other elementary or secondary students, into the health professions;~~

~~"(iv) prepare individuals to more effectively provide health services to underserved areas or underserved populations through field placements, preceptorships, the conduct of or support of community-based primary care residency programs, and agreements with community-based organizations such as community health centers, migrant health centers, Indian health~~

~~centers, public health departments and others;~~

~~"(v) conduct health professions education and training activities for students of health professions schools and medical residents;~~

~~"(vi) conduct at least 10 percent of medical student required clinical education at sites remote to the primary teaching facility of the contracting institution; and~~

~~"(vii) provide information dissemination and educational support to reduce professional isolation, increase retention, enhance the practice environment, and improve health care through the timely dissemination of research findings using relevant resources.~~

~~"(B) OTHER ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—With respect to a State in which no area health education center program is in operation, the Secretary may award a grant or contract under subparagraph (A) to a school of nursing.~~

~~"(C) PROJECT TERMS.—~~

~~"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the period during~~

which payments may be made under an award under subparagraph (A) may not exceed—

"(I) in the case of a project, 12 years or

"(II) in the case of a center within a project, 6 years.

"(ii) EXCEPTION.—The periods described in clause (i) shall not apply to projects that have completed the initial period of Federal funding under this section and that desire to compete for model awards under paragraph (2)(A).

"(2) ASSISTANCE FOR OPERATION OF MODEL PROGRAMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any entity described in paragraph (1)(A) that—

"(i) has previously received funds under this section;

"(ii) is operating an area health education center program; and

"(iii) is no longer receiving financial assistance under paragraph (1);

the Secretary may provide financial assistance to such entity to pay the costs of operating and

~~carrying out the requirements of the program as described in paragraph (1).~~

~~"(B) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—With respect to the costs of operating a model program under subparagraph (A), an entity, to be eligible for financial assistance under subparagraph (A), shall make available (directly or through contributions from State, county or municipal governments, or the private sector) recurring non-Federal contributions in cash toward such costs in an amount that is equal to not less than 50 percent of such costs.~~

~~"(C) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of awards provided under subparagraph (A) to entities in a State for a fiscal year may not exceed the lesser of—~~

~~"(i) $2,000,000; or~~

~~"(ii) an amount equal to the product of $250,000 and the aggregate number of area health education centers operated in the State by such entities.~~

~~"(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTERS.—~~

~~"(1) GENERAL REQUIREMENT.—Each area health education center that receives funds under this section shall encourage the regionalization of~~

~~health professions schools through the establishment of partnerships with community-based organizations.~~

~~"(2) SERVICE AREA.—Each area health education center that receives funds under this section shall specifically designate a geographic area or medically underserved population to be served by the center. Such area or population shall be in a location removed from the main location of the teaching facilities of the schools participating in the program with such center.~~

~~"(3) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Each area health education center that receives funds under this section shall—~~

~~"(A) assess the health personnel needs of the area to be served by the center and assist in the planning and development of training programs to meet such needs;~~

~~"(B) arrange and support rotations for students and residents in family medicine, general internal medicine or general pediatrics, with at least one center in each program being affiliated with or conducting a rotating osteopathic internship or medical residency training program in family medicine (including geriatrics), general internal medicine (including~~

~~geriatrics), or general pediatrics in which no fewer than 4 individuals are enrolled in first-year positions;~~

~~"(C) conduct and participate in interdisciplinary training that involves physicians and other health personnel including, where practicable, public health professionals, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and behavioral and mental health providers; and~~

~~"(D) have an advisory board, at least 75 percent of the members of which shall be individuals, including both health service providers and consumers, from the area served by the center.~~

~~"(e) CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING FUNDING.—~~

~~"(1) ALLOCATION TO CENTER.—Not less than 75 percent of the total amount of Federal funds provided to an entity under this section shall be allocated by an area health education center program to the area health education center. Such entity shall enter into an agreement with each center for purposes of specifying the allocation of such 75 percent of funds.~~

"(2) OPERATING COSTS.—With respect to the operating costs of the area health education center program of an entity receiving funds under this section, the entity shall make available (directly or through contributions from State, county or municipal governments, or the private sector) non-Federal contributions in cash toward such costs in an amount that is equal to not less than 50 percent of such costs, except that the Secretary may grant a waiver for up to 75 percent of the amount of the required non-Federal match in the first 3 years in which an entity receives funds under this section.

"SEC. 752. HEALTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTERS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for funds under this section, an health education training center shall be an entity otherwise eligible for funds under section 751 that—

"(1) addresses the persistent and severe unmet health care needs in States along the border between the United States and Mexico and in the State of Florida, and in other urban and rural areas with populations with serious unmet health care needs;

"(2) establishes an advisory board comprised of health service providers, educators and consumers from the service area;

"(3) conducts training and education programs for health professions students in these areas;

"(4) conducts training in health education services, including training to prepare community health workers; and

"(5) supports health professionals (including nursing) practicing in the area through educational and other services.

"(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall make available 50 percent of the amounts appropriated for each fiscal year under section 752 for the establishment or operation of health education training centers through projects in States along the border between the United States and Mexico and in the State of Florida.

"SEC. 753. EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATING TO GERIATRICS.

"(a) GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants or contracts under this section to entities described in paragraphs (1), (3), or (4) of section 799B, and section 853(2), for the establishment or operation of geriatric education centers.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A geriatric education center is a program that—

~~"(A) improves the training of health professionals in geriatrics, including geriatric residencies, traineeships, or fellowships;~~

~~"(B) develops and disseminates curricula relating to the treatment of the health problems of elderly individuals;~~

~~"(C) supports the training and retraining of faculty to provide instruction in geriatrics;~~

~~"(D) supports continuing education of health professionals who provide geriatric care; and~~

~~"(E) provides students with clinical training in geriatrics in nursing homes, chronic and acute disease hospitals, ambulatory care centers, and senior centers.~~

~~"(b) GERIATRIC TRAINING REGARDING PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to, and enter into contracts with, schools of medicine, schools of osteopathic medicine, teaching hospitals, and graduate medical education programs, for the purpose of providing support (including residencies, traineeships, and fellowships) for geriatric training projects to train physicians, dentists and behavioral and mental health professionals who~~

~~plan to teach geriatric medicine, geriatric behavioral or mental health, or geriatric dentistry.~~

~~"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each project for which a grant or contract is made under this subsection shall—~~

~~"(A) be staffed by full-time teaching physicians who have experience or training in geriatric medicine or geriatric behavioral or mental health;~~

~~"(B) be staffed, or enter into an agreement with an institution staffed by full-time or part-time teaching dentists who have experience or training in geriatric dentistry;~~

~~"(C) be staffed, or enter into an agreement with an institution staffed by full-time or part-time teaching behavioral mental health professionals who have experience or training in geriatric behavioral or mental health;~~

~~"(D) be based in a graduate medical education program in internal medicine or family medicine or in a department of geriatrics or behavioral or mental health;~~

~~"(E) provide training in geriatrics and exposure to the physical and mental disabilities of elderly individuals through a variety of service~~

~~rotations, such as geriatric consultation services, acute care services, dental services, geriatric behavioral or mental health units, day and home care programs, rehabilitation services, extended care facilities, geriatric ambulatory care and comprehensive evaluation units, and community care programs for elderly mentally retarded individuals; and~~

~~"(F) provide training in geriatrics through one or both of the training options described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3).~~

~~"(3) TRAINING OPTIONS.—The training options referred to in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (2) shall be as follows:~~

~~"(A) A 1-year retraining program in geriatrics for—~~

~~"(i) physicians who are faculty members in departments of internal medicine, family medicine, gynecology, geriatrics, and behavioral or mental health at schools of medicine and osteopathic medicine;~~

~~"(ii) dentists who are faculty members at schools of dentistry or at hospital departments of dentistry; and~~

~~"(iii) behavioral or mental health professionals who are faculty members in departments of behavioral or mental health; and~~

~~"(B) A 2-year internal medicine or family medicine fellowship program providing emphasis in geriatrics, which shall be designed to provide training in clinical geriatrics and geriatrics research for—~~

~~"(i) physicians who have completed graduate medical education programs in internal medicine, family medicine, behavioral or mental health, neurology, gynecology, or rehabilitation medicine;~~

~~"(ii) dentists who have demonstrated a commitment to an academic career and who have completed postdoctoral dental training, including postdoctoral dental education programs or who have relevant advanced training or experience; and~~

~~"(iii) behavioral or mental health professionals who have completed graduate medical education programs in behavioral or mental health.~~

~~"(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:~~

~~"(A) The term 'graduate medical education program' means a program sponsored by a school of medicine, a school of osteopathic medicine, a hospital, or a public or private institution that—~~

~~"(i) offers postgraduate medical training in the specialties and subspecialties of medicine; and~~

~~"(ii) has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association through its Committee on Postdoctoral Training.~~

~~"(B) The term 'post-doctoral dental education program' means a program sponsored by a school of dentistry, a hospital, or a public or private institution that—~~

~~"(i) offers post-doctoral training in the specialties of dentistry, advanced education in general dentistry, or a dental general practice residency; and~~

~~"(ii) has been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.~~

~~"(c) GERIATRIC FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS.—~~

~~"(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program to provide Geriatric Academic Career Awards to eligible individuals to promote the career development of such individuals as academic geriatricians.~~

~~"(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—To be eligible to receive an Award under paragraph (1), an individual shall—~~

~~"(A) have a degree in internal medicine, family practice, or behavioral or mental health science;~~

~~"(B) have completed an approved fellowship program in geriatrics; and~~

~~"(C) have a junior faculty appointment at an accredited (as determined by the Secretary) school of medicine or osteopathic medicine.~~

~~"(3) LIMITATIONS.—No Award under paragraph (1) may be made to an eligible individual unless the individual—~~

~~"(A) has submitted to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, and the Secretary has approved such application; and~~

"(B) provides, in such form and manner as the Secretary may require, assurances that the individual will meet the service requirement described in subsection (c).

"(4) AMOUNT AND TERM.—

"(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of an Award under this section shall equal $50,000 for fiscal year 1998, adjusted for subsequent fiscal years to reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

"(B) TERM.—The term of any Award made under this subsection shall not exceed 5 years.

"(5) SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—An individual who receives an Award under this subsection shall provide training in clinical geriatrics, including the training of interdisciplinary teams of health care professionals. The provision of such training shall constitute at least 75 percent of the obligations of such individual under the Award.

"SEC. 754. RURAL INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAINING GRANTS.

"(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make grants or contracts under this section to help entities fund authorized activities under an application approved under subsection (c).

~~"(b) USE OF AMOUNTS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided under subsection (a) shall be used by the recipients to fund interdisciplinary training projects designed to—~~

~~"(A) use new and innovative methods to train health care practitioners to provide services in rural areas;~~

~~"(B) demonstrate and evaluate innovative interdisciplinary methods and models designed to provide access to cost-effective comprehensive health care;~~

~~"(C) deliver health care services to individuals residing in rural areas;~~

~~"(D) enhance the amount of relevant research conducted concerning health care issues in rural areas; and~~

~~"(E) increase the recruitment and retention of health care practitioners from rural areas and make rural practice a more attractive career choice for health care practitioners.~~

~~"(2) METHODS.—A recipient of funds under subsection (a) may use various methods in carrying out the projects described in paragraph (1), including—~~

~~"(A) the distribution of stipends to students of eligible applicants;~~

~~"(B) the establishment of a post-doctoral fellowship program;~~

~~"(C) the training of faculty in the economic and logistical problems confronting rural health care delivery systems; or~~

~~"(D) the purchase or rental of transportation and telecommunication equipment where the need for such equipment due to unique characteristics of the rural area is demonstrated by the recipient.~~

~~"(3) ADMINISTRATION.—~~

~~"(A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant shall not use more than 10 percent of the funds made available to such applicant under subsection (a) for administrative expenses.~~

~~"(B) TRAINING.—Not more than 10 percent of the individuals receiving training with funds made available to an applicant under subsection (a) shall be trained as doctors of medicine or doctors of osteopathy.~~

~~"(C) LIMITATION.—An institution that receives a grant under this section shall use amounts received under such grant to supple-~~

~~ment, not supplant, amounts made available by such institution for activities of the type described in subsection (b)(1) in the fiscal year preceding the year for which the grant is received.~~

~~"(c) APPLICATIONS.—Applications submitted for assistance under this section shall—~~

~~"(1) be jointly submitted by at least two eligible applicants with the express purpose of assisting individuals in academic institutions in establishing long-term collaborative relationships with health care providers in rural areas; and~~

~~"(2) designate a rural health care agency or agencies for clinical treatment or training, including hospitals, community health centers, migrant health centers, rural health clinics, community behavioral and mental health centers, long-term care facilities, Native Hawaiian health centers, or facilities operated by the Indian Health Service or an Indian tribe or tribal organization or Indian organization under a contract with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination Act.~~

~~"(d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'rural' means geographic areas that are located outside of standard metropolitan statistical areas.~~

~~"SEC. 755. ALLIED HEALTH AND OTHER DISCIPLINES.~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants or contracts under this section to help entities fund activities of the type described in subsection (b).~~

~~"(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities of the type described in this subsection include the following:~~

~~"(1) Assisting entities in meeting the costs associated with expanding or establishing programs that will increase the number of individuals trained in allied health professions. Programs and activities funded under this paragraph may include—~~

~~"(A) those that expand enrollments in allied health professions with the greatest shortages or whose services are most needed by the elderly;~~

~~"(B) those that provide rapid transition training programs in allied health fields to individuals who have baccalaureate degrees in health-related sciences;~~

~~"(C) those that establish community-based allied health training programs that link academic centers to rural clinical settings;~~

~~"(D) those that provide career advancement training for practicing allied health professionals;~~

~~"(E) those that expand or establish clinical training sites for allied health professionals in medically underserved or rural communities in order to increase the number of individuals trained;~~

~~"(F) those that develop curriculum that will emphasize knowledge and practice in the areas of prevention and health promotion, geriatrics, long-term care, home health and hospice care, and ethics;~~

~~"(G) those that expand or establish interdisciplinary training programs that promote the effectiveness of allied health practitioners in geriatric assessment and the rehabilitation of the elderly;~~

~~"(H) those that expand or establish demonstration centers to emphasize innovative models to link allied health clinical practice, education, and research;~~

~~"(I) those that provide financial assistance (in the form of traineeships) to students who are participants in any such program; and~~

~~"(i) who plan to pursue a career in an allied health field that has a demonstrated personnel shortage; and~~

~~"(ii) who agree upon completion of the training program to practice in a medically underserved community;~~

~~that shall be utilized to assist in the payment of all or part of the costs associated with tuition, fees and such other stipends as the Secretary may consider necessary; and~~

~~"(J) those to meet the costs of projects to plan, develop, and operate or maintain graduate programs in behavioral and mental health practice.~~

~~"(2) Planning and implementing projects in preventive and primary care training for podiatric physicians in approved or provisionally approved residency programs that shall provide financial assistance in the form of traineeships to residents who participate in such projects and who plan to specialize in primary care.~~

~~"(3) Carrying out demonstration projects in which chiropractors and physicians collaborate to identify and provide effective treatment for spinal and lower-back conditions.~~

~~"SEC. 756. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERDISCIPLINARY, COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES.~~

~~"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Committee').~~

~~"(b) COMPOSITION.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine the appropriate number of individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee. Such individuals shall not be officers or employees of the Federal Government.~~

~~"(2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Committee from among individuals who are health professionals from schools of the types described in sections 751(a)(1)(A), 751(a)(1)(B), 753(b), 754(3)(A), and 755(b). In making such appointments, the Secretary shall ensure a fair balance between the health professions, that at least 75 percent of the members of the Advisory Committee are health professionals, a broad geographic representation of members and a balance between urban and rural members. Members shall be appointed based~~

on their competence, interest, and knowledge of the mission of the profession involved.

"(3) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—In appointing the members of the Advisory Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure the adequate representation of women and minorities.

"(c) TERMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that of the members first appointed—

"(A) ⅓ of the members shall serve for a term of 1 year;

"(B) ⅓ of the members shall serve for a term of 2 years; and

"(C) ⅓ of the members shall serve for a term of 3 years.

"(2) VACANCIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall be subject to any conditions which applied with respect to the original appointment.

"(B) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be ap-

~~pointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.~~

~~"(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall—~~

~~"(1) provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary concerning policy and program development and other matters of significance concerning the activities under this part; and~~

~~"(2) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Secretary, and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report describing the activities of the Committee, including findings and recommendations made by the Committee concerning the activities under this part.~~

~~"(e) MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS.—~~

~~"(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less than 3 times each year. Such meetings shall be held jointly with other related entities established under this title where appropriate.~~

~~"(2) DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 14 days prior to the convening of a meeting under paragraph (1), the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available an agenda of the matters to be considered~~

~~by the Advisory Committee at such meeting. At any such meeting, the Advisory Council shall distribute materials with respect to the issues to be addressed at the meeting. Not later than 30 days after the adjourning of such a meeting, the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available a summary of the meeting and any actions taken by the Committee based upon the meeting.~~

~~"(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—~~

~~"(1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Advisory Committee shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Committee.~~

~~"(2) EXPENSES.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.~~

1 ~~"(g) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act~~
2 ~~shall apply to the Advisory Committee under this section~~
3 ~~only to the extent that the provisions of such Act do not~~
4 ~~conflict with the requirements of this section.~~
5 ~~**"SEC. 757. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**~~
6 ~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be ap-~~
7 ~~propriated to carry out this part, $55,600,000 for fiscal~~
8 ~~year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each~~
9 ~~of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.~~
10 ~~"(b) ALLOCATION.—~~
11 ~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appro-~~
12 ~~priated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the~~
13 ~~Secretary shall make available—~~
14 ~~"(A) not less than $28,587,000 for awards~~
15 ~~of grants and contracts under section 751;~~
16 ~~"(B) not less than $3,765,000 for awards~~
17 ~~of grants and contracts under section 752, of~~
18 ~~which not less than 50 percent of such amount~~
19 ~~shall be made available for centers described in~~
20 ~~subsection (a)(1) of such section; and~~
21 ~~"(C) not less than $22,631,000 for awards~~
22 ~~of grants and contracts under sections 753,~~
23 ~~754, and 755.~~
24 ~~"(2) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If amounts appro-~~
25 ~~priated under subsection (a) for any fiscal year are~~

less than the amount required to comply with paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ratably reduce the amount to be made available under each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of such paragraph accordingly.

"(c) OBLIGATION OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—

"(1) AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER PROGRAMS.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (b)(1)(A) for each fiscal year, the Secretary may obligate for awards under section 751(a)(2)—

"(A) not less than 23 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 1998;

"(B) not less than 30 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 1999;

"(C) not less than 35 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 2000;

"(D) not less than 40 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 2001; and

"(E) not less than 45 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 2002.

"(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

"(A) every State have an area health education center program in effect under this section; and

~~"(B) the ratio of Federal funding for the model program under section 751(a)(2) should increase over time and that Federal funding for other awards under this section shall decrease so that the national program will become entirely comprised of programs that are funded at least 50 percent by State and local partners.".~~

~~SEC. 104. HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS.~~

~~(a) IN GENERAL.—Part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended to read as follows:~~

~~"PART E—HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE~~

~~"Subpart 1—Health Professions Workforce Information and Analysis~~

~~"SEC. 761. HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS.~~

~~"(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to—~~

~~"(1) provide for the development of information describing the health professions workforce and the analysis of workforce related issues; and~~

~~"(2) provide necessary information for decision-making regarding future directions in health profes-~~

~~sions and nursing programs in response to societal and professional needs.~~

~~"(b) GRANTS OR CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may award grants or contracts to State or local governments, health professions schools, schools of nursing, academic health centers, community-based health facilities, and other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities to provide for—~~

~~"(1) targeted information collection and analysis activities related to the purposes described in subsection (a);~~

~~"(2) research on high priority workforce questions;~~

~~"(3) the development of a non-Federal analytic and research infrastructure related to the purposes described in subsection (a); and~~

~~"(4) the conduct of program evaluation and assessment.~~

~~"(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $750,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.~~

~~"(2) RESERVATION.—Of the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not less than $600,000 for conducting health professions research and for carrying out data collection and analysis in accordance with section 792.~~

~~"(3) AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Amounts otherwise appropriated for programs or activities under this title may be used for activities under subsection (b) with respect to the programs or activities from which such amounts were made available.".~~

~~(b) COUNCIL ON GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.—Section 301 of the Health Professions Education Extension Amendments of 1992 (Public Law 102-408) is amended—~~

~~(1) in subsection (j), by striking "1995" and inserting "2002";~~

~~(2) in subsection (k), by striking "1995" and inserting "2002";~~

~~(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:~~

~~"(l) FUNDING.—Amounts otherwise appropriated under this title may be utilized by the Secretary to support the activities of the Council.";~~

(4) by transferring such section to part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by subsection (a));

(5) by redesignating such section as section 763; and

(6) by inserting such section after section 762.

SEC. 105. PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 104) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"Subpart 2—Public Health Workforce

"SEC. 765. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants or contracts to eligible entities to increase the number of individuals in the public health workforce, to enhance the quality of such workforce, and to enhance the ability of the workforce to meet national, State, and local health care needs.

"(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under subsection (a) an entity shall—

"(1) be—

"(A) a health professions school, including an accredited school or program of public health, health administration, preventive medi-

~~cine, or dental public health or a school providing health management programs;~~

~~"(B) an academic health center;~~

~~"(C) a State or local government; or~~

~~"(D) any other appropriate public or private nonprofit entity; and~~

~~"(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.~~

~~"(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants or contracts under this section the Secretary may grant a preference to entities—~~

~~"(1) serving individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (including underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities); and~~

~~"(2) graduating large proportions of individuals who serve in underserved communities.~~

~~"(d) ACTIVITIES.—Amounts provided under a grant or contract awarded under this section may be used for—~~

~~"(1) the costs of planning, developing, or operating demonstration training programs;~~

~~"(2) faculty development;~~

~~"(3) trainee support;~~

~~"(4) technical assistance;~~

~~"(5) to meet the costs of projects—~~

~~"(A) to plan and develop new residency training programs and to maintain or improve existing residency training programs in preventive medicine and dental public health, that have available full-time faculty members with training and experience in the fields of preventive medicine and dental public health; and~~

~~"(B) to provide financial assistance to residency trainees enrolled in such programs;~~

~~"(6) the retraining of existing public health workers as well as for increasing the supply of new practitioners to address priority public health, preventive medicine, public health dentistry, and health administration needs;~~

~~"(7) preparing public health professionals for employment at the State and community levels; or~~

~~"(8) other activities that may produce outcomes that are consistent with the purposes of this section~~

~~"(c) TRAINEESHIPS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to amounts used under this section for the training of health professionals, such training programs shall be designed to—~~

~~"(A) make public health education more accessible to the public and private health workforce;~~

~~"(B) increase the relevance of public health academic preparation to public health practice in the future;~~

~~"(C) provide education or training for students from traditional on-campus programs in practice-based sites; or~~

~~"(D) develop educational methods and distance-based approaches or technology that address adult learning requirements and increase knowledge and skills related to community-based cultural diversity in public health education.~~

~~"(2) SEVERE SHORTAGE DISCIPLINES.—Amounts provided under grants or contracts under this section may be used for the operation of programs designed to award traineeships to students in accredited schools of public health who enter educational programs in fields where there is a severe shortage of public health professionals, including epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, toxicology, public health nursing, nutrition, preventive~~

medicine, maternal and child health, and behavioral and mental health professions.

"SEC. 766. PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTERS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants or contracts for the operation of public health training centers.

"(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A public health training center shall be an accredited school of public health, or another public or nonprofit private institution accredited for the provision of graduate or specialized training in public health, that plans, develops, operates, and evaluates projects that are in furtherance of the goals established by the Secretary for the year 2000 in the areas of preventive medicine, health promotion and disease prevention, or improving access to and quality of health services in medically underserved communities.

"(2) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants or contracts under this section the Secretary shall give preference to accredited schools of public health.

"(c) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to a public health training center, an award may not be made under subsection (a) unless the program agrees that it—

~~"(1) will establish or strengthen field placements for students in public or nonprofit private health agencies or organizations;~~

~~"(2) will involve faculty members and students in collaborative projects to enhance public health services to medically underserved communities;~~

~~"(3) will specifically designate a geographic area or medically underserved population to be served by the center that shall be in a location removed from the main location of the teaching facility of the school that is participating in the program with such center; and~~

~~"(4) will assess the health personnel needs of the area to be served by the center and assist in the planning and development of training programs to meet such needs.~~

~~**"SEC. 767. PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINEESHIPS.**~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to accredited schools of public health, and to other public or nonprofit private institutions accredited for the provision of graduate or specialized training in public health, for the purpose of assisting such schools and institutions in providing traineeships to individuals described in subsection (b)(3).~~

~~"(b) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—~~

~~"(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of any grant under this section shall be determined by the Secretary.~~

~~"(2) USE OF GRANT.—Traineeships awarded under grants made under subsection (a) shall provide for tuition and fees and such stipends and allowances (including travel and subsistence expenses and dependency allowances) for the trainees as the Secretary may deem necessary.~~

~~"(3) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The individuals referred to in subsection (a) are individuals who are pursuing a course of study in a health professions field in which there is a severe shortage of health professionals (which fields include the fields of epidemiology, environmental health, biostatistics, toxicology, nutrition, and maternal and child health).~~

~~"SEC. 768. PREVENTIVE MEDICINE; DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH.~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to and enter into contracts with schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, and dentistry to meet the costs of projects—~~

~~"(1) to plan and develop new residency training programs and to maintain or improve existing resi-~~

~~dency training programs in preventive medicine and dental public health; and~~

~~"(2) to provide financial assistance to residency trainees enrolled in such programs.~~

~~"(b) ADMINISTRATION.—~~

~~"(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of any grant under subsection (a) shall be determined by the Secretary.~~

~~"(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under subsection (a), the applicant must demonstrate to the Secretary that it has or will have available full-time faculty members with training and experience in the fields of preventive medicine or dental public health and support from other faculty members trained in public health and other relevant specialties and disciplines.~~

~~"(3) OTHER FUNDS.—Schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, and public health may use funds committed by State, local, or county public health officers as matching amounts for Federal grant funds for residency training programs in preventive medicine.~~

~~"SEC. 769. HEALTH ADMINISTRATION TRAINEESHIPS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS.~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to State or local governments (that have in effect preventive medical and dental public health residency programs) or public or nonprofit private educational entities (including graduate schools of social work and business schools that have health management programs) that offer a program described in subsection (b)—~~

~~"(1) to provide traineeships for students enrolled in such a program; and~~

~~"(2) to assist accredited programs health administration in the development or improvement of programs to prepare students for employment with public or nonprofit private entities.~~

~~"(b) RELEVANT PROGRAMS.—The program referred to in subsection (a) is an accredited program in health administration, hospital administration, or health policy analysis and planning, which program is accredited by a body or bodies approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education and which meets such other quality standards as the Secretary of Health and Human Services by regulation may prescribe.~~

~~"(c) PREFERENCE IN MAKING GRANTS.—In making grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give pref-~~

~~erence to qualified applicants that meet the following conditions:~~

~~"(1) Not less than 25 percent of the graduates of the applicant are engaged in full-time practice settings in medically underserved communities.~~

~~"(2) The applicant recruits and admits students from medically underserved communities.~~

~~"(3) For the purpose of training students, the applicant has established relationships with public and nonprofit providers of health care in the community involved.~~

~~"(4) In training students, the applicant emphasizes employment with public or nonprofit private entities.~~

~~"(d) CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING TRAINEESHIPS.—~~

~~"(1) USE OF GRANT.—Traineeships awarded under grants made under subsection (a) shall provide for tuition and fees and such stipends and allowances (including travel and subsistence expenses and dependency allowances) for the trainees as the Secretary may deem necessary.~~

~~"(2) PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.—Each entity applying for a grant under subsection (a) for traineeships shall assure to the satisfaction~~

of the Secretary that the entity will give priority to awarding the traineeships to students who demonstrate a commitment to employment with public or nonprofit private entities in the fields with respect to which the traineeships are awarded.

"SEC. 770. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out this subpart, there is authorized to be appropriated $9,100,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

"(b) LIMITATION REGARDING CERTAIN PROGRAM.—In obligating amounts appropriated under subsection (a), the Secretary may not obligate more than 30 percent for carrying out section 767.".

SEC. 106. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Part F of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295 et seq.) is repealed.

(2) Part G of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295j et seq.) is amended—

(A) by redesignating such part as part F;

(B) in section 791 (42 U.S.C. 295j)—

(i) by striking subsection (b); and

~~(ii) redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);~~

~~(C) by repealing section 793 (42 U.S.C. 295l);~~

~~(D) by repealing section 798;~~

~~(E) by redesignating section 799 as section 799B; and~~

~~(F) by inserting after section 794, the following new sections:~~

~~"SEC. 796. APPLICATION.~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under this title, an eligible entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application that meets the requirements of this section, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.~~

~~"(b) PLAN.—An application submitted under this section shall contain the plan of the applicant for carrying out a project with amounts received under this title. Such plan shall be consistent with relevant Federal, State, or regional health professions program plans.~~

~~"(c) PERFORMANCE OUTCOME STANDARDS.—An application submitted under this section shall contain a specification by the applicant entity of performance outcome standards that the project to be funded under the grant~~

or contract will be measured against. Such standards shall address relevant health workforce needs that the project will meet. The recipient of a grant or contract under this section shall meet the standards set forth in the grant or contract application.

"(d) LINKAGES.—An application submitted under this section shall contain a description of the linkages with relevant educational and health care entities, including training programs for other health professionals as appropriate, that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will establish. To the extent practicable, grantees under this section shall establish linkages with health care providers who provide care for underserved communities and populations.

"SEC. 797. USE OF FUNDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided under a grant or contract awarded under this title may be used for training program development and support, faculty development, model demonstrations, trainee support including tuition, books, program fees and reasonable living expenses during the period of training, technical assistance, workforce analysis, dissemination of information, and exploring new policy directions, as appropriate to meet recognized health workforce objectives, in accordance with this title.

1 ~~"(b) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—With respect to~~
2 ~~activities for which a grant awarded under this title is to~~
3 ~~be expended, the entity shall agree to maintain expendi-~~
4 ~~tures of non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level~~
5 ~~that is not less than the level of such expenditures main-~~
6 ~~tained by the entity for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal~~
7 ~~year for which the entity receives such a grant.~~

8 **~~"SEC. 798. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.~~**

9 ~~"The Secretary may require that an entity that ap-~~
10 ~~plies for a grant or contract under this title provide non-~~
11 ~~Federal matching funds, as appropriate, to ensure the in-~~
12 ~~stitutional commitment of the entity to the projects funded~~
13 ~~under the grant. As determined by the Secretary, such~~
14 ~~non-Federal matching funds may be provided directly or~~
15 ~~through donations from public or private entities and may~~
16 ~~be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant,~~
17 ~~equipment, or services.~~

18 **~~"SEC. 799. GENERALLY APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.~~**

19 ~~"(a) AWARDING OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—The~~
20 ~~Secretary shall ensure that grants and contracts under~~
21 ~~this title are awarded on a competitive basis, as appro-~~
22 ~~priate, to carry out innovative demonstration projects or~~
23 ~~provide for strategic workforce supplementation activities~~
24 ~~as needed to meet health workforce goals and in accord-~~
25 ~~ance with this title. Contracts may be entered into under~~

~~this title with public or private entities as may be necessary.~~

~~"(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Unless specifically required otherwise in this title, the Secretary shall accept applications for grants or contracts under this title from health professions schools, academic health centers, State or local governments, or other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities for funding and participation in health professions and nursing training activities. The Secretary may accept applications from for-profit private entities if determined appropriate by the Secretary.~~

~~"(c) INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Recipients of grants and contracts under this title shall meet information requirements as specified by the Secretary.~~

~~"(2) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure that, with respect to any data collection required under this title, such data is collected in a manner that takes into account age, gender, race, and ethnicity.~~

~~"(3) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to permit the use of amounts appropriated under this title to be used for data collection purposes.~~

~~"(4) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure the annual evaluation of programs and projects operated by recipients of grants or contracts under this title. Such procedures shall ensure that continued funding for such programs and projects will be conditioned upon a demonstration that satisfactory progress has been made by the program or project in meeting the objectives of the program or project.~~

~~"(d) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Training programs conducted with amounts received under this title shall meet applicable accreditation and quality standards.~~

~~"(e) DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, the period during which payments are made to the entity under the award may not exceed 5 years. The provision of payments under the award shall be subject to annual approval by the Secretary of the payments and subject to the availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to make the payments. This paragraph may not be construed as limiting the number of awards under the program involved that may be made to the entity.~~

~~"(2) LIMITATION.—In the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, paragraph (1) shall apply only to the extent not inconsistent with any other provision of this title that relates to the period during which payments may be made under the award.~~

~~"(f) PEER REVIEW REGARDING CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each application for a grant under this title, except any scholarship or loan program, including those under sections 701, 721, or 723, shall be submitted to a peer review group for an evaluation of the merits of the proposals made in the application. The Secretary may not approve such an application unless a peer review group has recommended the application for approval.~~

~~"(2) COMPOSITION.—Each peer review group under this subsection shall be composed principally of individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government. In providing for the establishment of peer review groups and procedures, the Secretary shall ensure gender, racial, ethnic, and geographic balance among the membership of such groups.~~

~~"(3) ADMINISTRATION.—This subsection shall be carried out by the Secretary acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.~~

~~"(g) PREFERENCE OR PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS.—In considering a preference or priority for funding which is based on outcome measures for an eligible entity under this title, the Secretary may also consider the future ability of the eligible entity to meet the outcome preference or priority through improvements in the eligible entity's program design.~~

~~"(h) ANALYTIC ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that—~~

~~"(1) cross-cutting workforce analytical activities are carried out as part of the workforce information and analysis activities under section 761; and~~

~~"(2) discipline-specific workforce information and analytical activities are carried out as part of—~~

~~"(A) the community-based linkage program under part D; and~~

~~"(B) the health workforce development program under subpart 2 of part E.~~

~~"(i) OSTEOPATHIC SCHOOLS.—For purposes of this title, any reference to—~~

~~"(1) medical schools shall include osteopathic medical schools; and~~

~~"(2) medical students shall include osteopathic medical students.~~

~~"SEC. 799A. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.~~

~~"Funds appropriated under this title may be used by the Secretary to provide technical assistance in relation to any of the authorities under this title.".~~

~~(b) PROFESSION COUNSELORS AS MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—Section 792(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295k(a)) is amended by inserting "professional counselors," after "clinical psychologists,".~~

~~SEC. 107. PREFERENCE IN CERTAIN PROGRAMS.~~

~~(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 791 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295j), as amended by section 105(a)(2)(B), is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following subsection:~~

~~"(e) EXCEPTIONS FOR NEW PROGRAMS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—To permit new programs to compete equitably for funding under this section, those new programs that meet at least 4 of the criteria described in paragraph (3) shall qualify for a funding preference under this section.~~

~~"(2) DEFINITION.—As used in this subsection, the term 'new program' means any program that~~

~~has graduated less than three classes. Upon graduating at least three classes, a program shall have the capability to provide the information necessary to qualify the program for the general funding preferences described in subsection (a).~~

~~"(3) CRITERIA.—The criteria referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:~~

~~"(A) The mission statement of the program identifies a specific purpose of the program as being the preparation of health professionals to serve underserved populations.~~

~~"(B) The curriculum of the program includes content which will help to prepare practitioners to serve underserved populations.~~

~~"(C) Substantial clinical training experience is required under the program in medically underserved communities.~~

~~"(D) A minimum of 20 percent of the clinical faculty of the program spend at least 50 percent of their time providing or supervising care in medically underserved communities.~~

~~"(E) The entire program or a substantial portion of the program is physically located in a medically underserved community.~~

~~"(F) Student assistance, which is linked to service in medically underserved communities following graduation, is available to the students in the program.~~

~~"(G) The program provides a placement mechanism for deploying graduates to medically underserved communities.".~~

~~(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 791(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295j(a)) is amended—~~

~~(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "sections 747" and all that follows through "767" and inserting "sections 747 and 750"; and~~

~~(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "under section 798(a)".~~

~~SEC. 108. DEFINITIONS.~~

~~(a) GRADUATE PROGRAM IN BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE.—Section 799B(1)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p(1)(D)) (as so redesignated by section 106(a)(2)(E)) is amended—~~

~~(1) by inserting "behavioral health and" before "mental"; and~~

~~(2) by inserting "behavioral health and mental health practice," before "clinical".~~

~~(b) PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AS A BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE.—Section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) (as so redesignated by section 106(a)(2)(E)) is amended—~~

~~(1) in paragraph (1)—~~

~~(A) in subparagraph (C)—~~

~~(i) by inserting "and 'graduate program in professional counseling'" after "graduate program in marriage and family therapy'"; and~~

~~(ii) by inserting before the period the following: "and a concentration leading to a graduate degree in counseling";~~

~~(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting "professional counseling," after "social work,"; and~~

~~(C) in subparagraph (E), by inserting "professional counseling," after "social work,"; and~~

~~(2) in paragraph (5)(C), by inserting before the period the following: "or a degree in counseling or an equivalent degree".~~

~~(c) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—Section 799B(6) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.~~

~~295p(6)) (as so redesignated by section 105(a)(2)(E)) is amended—~~

~~(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "or" at the end thereof;~~

~~(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and~~

~~(3) by adding at the end the following:~~

~~"(D) is designated by a State Governor (in consultation with the medical community) as a shortage area or medically underserved community.".~~

~~(d) PROGRAMS FOR THE TRAINING OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.—Paragraph (3) of section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) (as so redesignated by section 105(a)(2)(E)) is amended to read as follows:~~

~~"(3) The term 'program for the training of physician assistants' means an educational program that—~~

~~"(A) has as its objective the education of individuals who will, upon completion of their studies in the program, be qualified to provide primary care under the supervision of a physician;~~

~~"(B) extends for at least one academic year and consists of—~~

~~"(i) supervised clinical practice; and~~

~~"(ii) at least four months (in the aggregate) of classroom instruction, directed toward preparing students to deliver health care;~~

~~"(C) has an enrollment of not less than eight students; and~~

~~"(D) trains students in primary care, disease prevention, health promotion, geriatric medicine, and home health care.".~~

~~SEC. 109. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.~~

~~Section 338B(b)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1(b)(1)(B)) is amended by striking "or other health profession" and inserting "behavioral and mental health, or other health profession".~~

~~SEC. 110. SAVINGS PROVISION.~~

~~In the case of any authority for making awards of grants or contracts that is terminated by the amendments made by this subtitle, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may, notwithstanding the termination of the authority, continue in effect any grant or contract made under the authority that is in effect on the day before the~~

~~date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the duration of any such grant or contract not exceeding the period determined by the Secretary in first approving such financial assistance, or in approving the most recent request made (before the date of such enactment) for continuation of such assistance, as the case may be.~~

~~Subtitle B—Nursing Workforce Development~~

~~SEC. 121. SHORT TITLE.~~

~~This title may be cited as the ''Nursing Education and Practice Improvement Act of 1998''.~~

~~SEC. 122. PURPOSE.~~

~~It is the purpose of this title to restructure the nurse education authorities of title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to permit a comprehensive, flexible, and effective approach to Federal support for nursing workforce development.~~

~~SEC. 123. AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.~~

~~Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296k et seq.) is amended—~~

~~(1) by striking the title heading and all that follows except for subpart II of part B and sections 846 and 855; and inserting the following:~~

“TITLE VIII—NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT”;

(2) in subpart H of part B, by striking the subpart heading and inserting the following:

“PART E—STUDENT LOANS”;

(3) by striking section 837;

(4) by inserting after the title heading the following new parts:

“PART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

“SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS.

“As used in this title:

“(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term ‘eligible entities’ means schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, State or local governments, and other public or private nonprofit entities determined appropriate by the Secretary that submit to the Secretary an application in accordance with section 802.

“(2) SCHOOL OF NURSING.—The term ‘school of nursing’ means a collegiate, associate degree, or diploma school of nursing in a State.

“(3) COLLEGIATE SCHOOL OF NURSING.—The term ‘collegiate school of nursing’ means a department, division, or other administrative unit in a college or university which provides primarily or exclu-

~~sively a program of education in professional nursing and related subjects leading to the degree of bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, bachelor of nursing, or to an equivalent degree, or to a graduate degree in nursing, or to an equivalent degree, and including advanced training related to such program of education provided by such school, but only if such program, or such unit, college or university is accredited.~~

~~"(4) ASSOCIATE DEGREE SCHOOL OF NURSING.—The term 'associate degree school of nursing' means a department, division, or other administrative unit in a junior college, community college, college, or university which provides primarily or exclusively a two-year program of education in professional nursing and allied subjects leading to an associate degree in nursing or to an equivalent degree, but only if such program, or such unit, college, or university is accredited.~~

~~"(5) DIPLOMA SCHOOL OF NURSING.—The term 'diploma school of nursing' means a school affiliated with a hospital or university, or an independent school, which provides primarily or exclusively a program of education in professional nursing and allied subjects leading to a diploma or to equivalent~~

~~indicia that such program has been satisfactorily completed, but only if such program, or such affiliated school or such hospital or university or such independent school is accredited.~~

~~"(6) ACCREDITED.—~~

~~"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'accredited' when applied to any program of nurse education means a program accredited by a recognized body or bodies, or by a State agency, approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education and when applied to a hospital, school, college, or university (or a unit thereof) means a hospital, school, college, or university (or a unit thereof) which is accredited by a recognized body or bodies, or by a State agency, approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education. For the purpose of this paragraph, the Secretary of Education shall publish a list of recognized accrediting bodies, and of State agencies, which the Secretary of Education determines to be reliable authority as to the quality of education offered.~~

~~"(B) NEW PROGRAMS.—A new program of nursing that, by reason of an insufficient period~~

of operation, is not, at the time of the submission of an application for a grant or contract under this title, eligible for accreditation by such a recognized body or bodies or State agency, shall be deemed accredited for purposes of this title if the Secretary of Education finds, after consultation with the appropriate accreditation body or bodies, that there is reasonable assurance that the program will meet the accreditation standards of such body or bodies prior to the beginning of the academic year following the normal graduation date of students of the first entering class in such a program.

"(7) NONPROFIT.—The term 'nonprofit' as applied to any school, agency, organization, or institution means one which is a corporation or association, or is owned and operated by one or more corporations or associations, no part of the net earnings of which inures, or may lawfully inure, to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

"(8) STATE.—The term 'State' means a State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

~~**"SEC. 802. APPLICATION.**~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under this title, an eligible entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application that meets the requirements of this section, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.~~

~~"(b) PLAN.—An application submitted under this section shall contain the plan of the applicant for carrying out a project with amounts received under this title. Such plan shall be consistent with relevant Federal, State, or regional program plans.~~

~~"(c) PERFORMANCE OUTCOME STANDARDS.—An application submitted under this section shall contain a specification by the applicant entity of performance outcome standards that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will be measured against. Such standards shall address relevant national nursing needs that the project will meet. The recipient of a grant or contract under this section shall meet the standards set forth in the grant or contract application.~~

~~"(d) LINKAGES.—An application submitted under this section shall contain a description of the linkages with relevant educational and health care entities, including training programs for other health professionals as appro-~~

priate, that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will establish.

"SEC. 803. USE OF FUNDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided under a grant or contract awarded under this title may be used for training program development and support, faculty development, model demonstrations, trainee support including tuition, books, program fees and reasonable living expenses during the period of training, technical assistance, workforce analysis, and dissemination of information, as appropriate to meet recognized nursing objectives, in accordance with this title.

"(b) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—With respect to activities for which a grant awarded under this title is to be expended, the entity shall agree to maintain expenditures of non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the entity for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the entity receives such a grant.

"SEC. 804. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

"The Secretary may require that an entity that applies for a grant or contract under this title provide non-Federal matching funds, as appropriate, to ensure the institutional commitment of the entity to the projects funded under the grant. Such non-Federal matching funds may

be provided directly or through donations from public or private entities and may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

"SEC. 805. PREFERENCE.

"In awarding grants or contracts under this title, the Secretary shall give preference to applicants with projects that will substantially benefit rural or underserved populations, or help meet public health nursing needs in State or local health departments.

"SEC. 806. GENERALLY APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.

"(a) AWARDING OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that grants and contracts under this title are awarded on a competitive basis, as appropriate, to carry out innovative demonstration projects or provide for strategic workforce supplementation activities as needed to meet national nursing service goals and in accordance with this title. Contracts may be entered into under this title with public or private entities as determined necessary by the Secretary.

"(b) INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Recipients of grants and contracts under this title shall meet information requirements as specified by the Secretary.

"(2) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure the annual evaluation of

~~programs and projects operated by recipients of grants under this title. Such procedures shall ensure that continued funding for such programs and projects will be conditioned upon a demonstration that satisfactory progress has been made by the program or project in meeting the objectives of the program or project.~~

~~"(c) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Training programs conducted with amounts received under this title shall meet applicable accreditation and quality standards.~~

~~"(d) DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, the period during which payments are made to the entity under the award may not exceed 5 years. The provision of payments under the award shall be subject to annual approval by the Secretary of the payments and subject to the availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to make the payments. This paragraph may not be construed as limiting the number of awards under the program involved that may be made to the entity.~~

~~"(2) LIMITATION.—In the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or con-~~

~~tract under this title, paragraph (1) shall apply only to the extent not inconsistent with any other provision of this title that relates to the period during which payments may be made under the award.~~

~~"(c) PEER REVIEW REGARDING CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each application for a grant under this title, except advanced nurse traineeship grants under section 811(a)(2), shall be submitted to a peer review group for an evaluation of the merits of the proposals made in the application. The Secretary may not approve such an application unless a peer review group has recommended the application for approval.~~

~~"(2) COMPOSITION.—Each peer review group under this subsection shall be composed principally of individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government. In providing for the establishment of peer review groups and procedures, the Secretary shall, except as otherwise provided, ensure gender, racial, ethnic, and geographic balance among the membership of such groups.~~

~~"(3) ADMINISTRATION.—This subsection shall be carried out by the Secretary acting through the~~

~~Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.~~

~~"(f) ANALYTIC ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that—~~

~~"(1) cross-cutting workforce analytical activities are carried out as part of the workforce information and analysis activities under this title; and~~

~~"(2) discipline-specific workforce information is developed and analytical activities are carried out as part of—~~

~~"(A) the advanced practice nursing activities under part B;~~

~~"(B) the workforce diversity activities under part C; and~~

~~"(C) basic nursing education and practice activities under part D.~~

~~"(g) STATE AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES.—Activities under grants or contracts under this title shall, to extent practicable, be consistent with related Federal, State, or regional nursing professions program plans and priorities.~~

~~"(h) FILING OF APPLICATIONS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Applications for grants or contracts under this title may be submitted by health professions schools, schools of nursing, academic health centers, State or local governments, or~~

other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities as determined appropriate by the Secretary in accordance with this title.

"(2) FOR PROFIT ENTITIES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a for-profit entity may be eligible for a grant or contract under this title as determined appropriated by the Secretary.

"SEC. 807. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

"Funds appropriated under this title may be used by the Secretary to provide technical assistance in relation to any of the authorities under this title.

"PART B—NURSE PRACTITIONERS, NURSE MIDWIVES, NURSE ANESTHETISTS, AND OTHER ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES

"SEC. 811. ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING GRANTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities to meet the costs of—

"(1) projects that support the enhancement of advanced practice nursing education and practice; and

"(2) traineeships for individuals in advanced practice nursing programs.

"(b) DEFINITION OF ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES.—For purposes of this section, the term 'ad-

~~vanced practice nurses' means individuals trained in advanced degree programs including individuals in combined R.N./Master's degree programs, post-nursing master's certificate programs, or, in the case of nurse midwives, in certificate programs in existence on the date that is one day prior to the date of enactment of this section, to serve as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, nurse administrators, or public health nurses, or in other nurse specialties determined by the Secretary to require advanced education.~~

~~"(c) AUTHORIZED NURSE PRACTITIONER AND NURSE-MIDWIFERY PROGRAMS.—Nurse practitioner and nurse midwifery programs eligible for support under this section are educational programs for registered nurses (irrespective of the type of school of nursing in which the nurses received their training) that—~~

~~"(1) meet guidelines prescribed by the Secretary; and~~

~~"(2) have as their objective the education of nurses who will upon completion of their studies in such programs, be qualified to effectively provide primary health care, including primary health care in homes and in ambulatory care facilities, long-term~~

~~care facilities, acute care, and other health care settings.~~

~~"(d) AUTHORIZED NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAMS.—Nurse anesthesia programs eligible for support under this section are education programs that—~~

~~"(1) provide registered nurses with full-time anesthetist education; and~~

~~"(2) are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.~~

~~"(e) OTHER AUTHORIZED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall prescribe guidelines as appropriate for other advanced practice nurse education programs eligible for support under this section.~~

~~"(f) TRAINEESHIPS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not award a grant to an applicant under subsection (a) unless the applicant involved agrees that traineeships provided with the grant will only pay all or part of the costs of—~~

~~"(A) the tuition, books, and fees of the program of advanced nursing practice with respect to which the traineeship is provided; and~~

~~"(B) the reasonable living expenses of the individual during the period for which the traineeship is provided.~~

~~"(2) DOCTORAL PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may not obligate more than 10 percent of the traineeships under subsection (a) for individuals in doctorate degree programs.~~

~~"(3) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In making awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall give special consideration to an eligible entity that agrees to expend the award to train advanced practice nurses who will practice in health professional shortage areas designated under section 332.~~

~~"PART C—INCREASING NURSING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY~~

~~"SEC. 821. WORKFORCE DIVERSITY GRANTS.~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities to meet the costs of special projects to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among registered nurses) by providing student scholarships or stipends, pre-entry preparation, and retention activities.~~

~~"(b) GUIDANCE.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into consideration the recommendations of the First, Second and Third Invitational Con-~~

~~gresses for Minority Nurse Leaders on 'Caring for the Emerging Majority,' in 1992, 1993 and 1997, and consult with nursing associations including the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Black Nurses Association, the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, the Association of Asian American and Pacific Islander Nurses, the Native American Indian and Alaskan Nurses Association, and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.~~

~~"(c) REQUIRED INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS FOR AWARD RECIPIENTS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Recipients of awards under this section may be required, where requested, to report to the Secretary concerning the annual admission, retention, and graduation rates for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and ethnic and racial minorities in the school or schools involved in the projects.~~

~~"(2) FALLING RATES.—If any of the rates reported under paragraph (1) fall below the average of the two previous years, the grant or contract recipient shall provide the Secretary with plans for immediately improving such rates.~~

~~"(3) INELIGIBILITY.—A recipient described in paragraph (2) shall be ineligible for continued funding under this section if the plan of the recipient fails to improve the rates within the 1-year period beginning on the date such plan is implemented.~~

~~"PART D—STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR BASIC NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE~~

~~"SEC. 831. BASIC NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE GRANTS.~~

~~"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities for projects to strengthen capacity for basic nurse education and practice.~~

~~"(b) PRIORITY AREAS.—In awarding grants or contracts under this section the Secretary shall give priority to entities that will use amounts provided under such a grant or contract to enhance the educational mix and utilization of the basic nursing workforce by strengthening programs that provide basic nurse education, such as through—~~

~~"(1) establishing or expanding nursing practice arrangements in noninstitutional settings to demonstrate methods to improve access to primary health care in medically underserved communities;~~

1 ~~''(2) providing care for underserved populations~~
2 ~~and other high-risk groups such as the elderly, indi-~~
3 ~~viduals with HIV-AIDS, substance abusers, the~~
4 ~~homeless, and victims of domestic violence;~~
5 ~~''(3) providing managed care, quality improve-~~
6 ~~ment, and other skills needed to practice in existing~~
7 ~~and emerging organized health care systems;~~
8 ~~''(4) developing cultural competencies among~~
9 ~~nurses;~~
10 ~~''(5) expanding the enrollment in baccalaureate~~
11 ~~nursing programs;~~
12 ~~''(6) promoting career mobility for nursing per-~~
13 ~~sonnel in a variety of training settings and cross~~
14 ~~training or specialty training among diverse popu-~~
15 ~~lation groups;~~
16 ~~''(7) providing education in informatics, includ-~~
17 ~~ing distance learning methodologies; or~~
18 ~~''(8) other priority areas as determined by the~~
19 ~~Secretary.'';~~
20 ~~(5) by adding at the end the following:~~
21 **~~''PART F—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS~~**
22 **~~''SEC. 841. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.~~**
23 ~~''There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out~~
24 ~~sections 811, 821, and 831, $65,000,000 for fiscal year~~

~~1998, and such sums as may be necessary in each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.~~

~~"PART G—NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE~~

~~"SEC. 845. NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE.~~

~~"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory council to be known as the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Council').~~

~~"(b) COMPOSITION.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall be composed of~~

~~"(A) not less than 21, nor more than 23 individuals, who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government, appointed by the Secretary without regard to the Federal civil service laws, of which—~~

~~"(i) 2 shall be selected from full-time students enrolled in schools of nursing;~~

~~"(ii) 2 shall be selected from the general public;~~

~~"(iii) 2 shall be selected from practicing professional nurses; and~~

~~"(iv) 9 shall be selected from among the leading authorities in the various fields of nursing, higher, and secondary education, and from representatives of advanced practice nursing groups (such as nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and nurse anesthetists), hospitals, and other institutions and organizations which provide nursing services; and~~

~~"(B) the Secretary (or the delegate of the Secretary (who shall be an ex officio member and shall serve as the Chairperson)).~~

~~"(2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Council and each such member shall serve a 4 year term. In making such appointments, the Secretary shall ensure a fair balance between the nursing professions, a broad geographic representation of members and a balance between urban and rural members. Members shall be appointed based on their competence, interest, and knowledge of the mission of the profession involved. A majority of the members shall be nurses.~~

~~"(3) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—In appointing the members of the Advisory Council under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure the adequate representation of minorities.~~

~~"(e) VACANCIES.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Council shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall be subject to any conditions which applied with respect to the original appointment.~~

~~"(2) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.~~

~~"(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall—~~

~~"(1) provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary and Congress concerning policy matters arising in the administration of this title, including the range of issues relating to the nurse workforce, education, and practice improvement;~~

~~"(2) provide advice to the Secretary and Congress in the preparation of general regulations and with respect to policy matters arising in the administration of this title, including the range of issues relating to nurse supply, education and practice improvement; and~~

~~"(3) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report describing the activities of the Council, including findings and recommendations made by the Council concerning the activities under this title.~~

~~"(e) MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS.—~~

~~"(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Council shall meet not less than 2 times each year. Such meetings shall be held jointly with other related entities established under this title where appropriate.~~

~~"(2) DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 14 days prior to the convening of a meeting under paragraph (1), the Advisory Council shall prepare and make available an agenda of the matters to be considered by the Advisory Council at such meeting. At any such meeting, the Advisory Council shall distribute materials with respect to the issues to be addressed at the meeting. Not later than 30 days after the adjourning of such a meeting, the Advisory Council shall prepare and make available a summary of the meeting and any actions taken by the Council based upon the meeting.~~

~~"(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—~~

~~"(1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Council. All members of the Council who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.~~

~~"(2) EXPENSES.—The members of the Advisory Council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council.~~

~~"(g) FUNDING.—Amounts appropriated under this title may be utilized by the Secretary to support the nurse education and practice activities of the Council.~~

~~"(h) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall apply to the Advisory Committee under this section~~

only to the extent that the provisions of such Act do not conflict with the requirements of this section.''; and

(6) by redesignating section 855 as section 810, and transferring such section so as to appear after section 809 (as added by the amendment made by paragraph (5)).

SEC. 124. SAVINGS PROVISION.

In the case of any authority for making awards of grants or contracts that is terminated by the amendment made by section 123, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may, notwithstanding the termination of the authority, continue in effect any grant or contract made under the authority that is in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the duration of any such grant or contract not exceeding the period determined by the Secretary in first approving such financial assistance, or in approving the most recent request made (before the date of such enactment) for continuation of such assistance, as the case may be.

Subtitle C—Financial Assistance

CHAPTER 1—SCHOOL-BASED REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS

SEC. 131. PRIMARY CARE LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR SCHOOLS.—Section 723(b)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.

~~292s(b)(1)), as amended by section 2014(c)(2)(A)(ii) of Public Law 103–43 (107 Stat. 216), is amended by striking "3 years before" and inserting "4 years before".~~

~~(b) NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 723(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292s(a)(3)) is amended to read as follows:~~

~~"(3) NONCOMPLIANCE BY STUDENT.—Each agreement entered into with a student pursuant to paragraph (1) shall provide that, if the student fails to comply with such agreement, the loan involved will begin to accrue interest at a rate of 18 percent per year beginning on the date of such noncompliance.".~~

~~(c) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 723 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292s) is amended—~~

~~(1) by striking subsection (c); and~~

~~(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).~~

~~SEC. 132. LOANS FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS.~~

~~(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 724(f)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292t(f)(1)) is amended by striking "$15,000,000 for fiscal year 1993" and inserting "$8,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002".~~

~~(b) REPEAL.—Effective October 1, 2002, paragraph (1) of section 724(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292t(f)(1)) is repealed.~~

~~SEC. 133. STUDENT LOANS REGARDING SCHOOLS OF NURSING.~~

~~(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 836(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297b(b)) is amended—~~

~~(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;~~

~~(2) in paragraph (2)—~~

~~(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" at the end; and~~

~~(B) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ", and (C) such additional periods under the terms of paragraph (8) of this subsection";~~

~~(3) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and~~

~~(4) by adding at the end the following paragraph:~~

~~"(8) pursuant to uniform criteria established by the Secretary, the repayment period established under paragraph (2) for any student borrower who during the repayment period failed to make consecutive payments and who, during the last 12 months~~

of the repayment period, has made at least 12 consecutive payments may be extended for a period not to exceed 10 years.''.

(b) MINIMUM MONTHLY PAYMENTS.—Section 836(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297b(g)) is amended by striking ''$15'' and inserting ''$40''.

(c) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 836 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(l) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—

''(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to ensure that obligations to repay loans under this section are enforced without regard to any Federal or State statutory, regulatory, or administrative limitation on the period within which debts may be enforced.

''(2) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, no limitation shall terminate the period within which suit may be filed, a judgment may be enforced, or an offset, garnishment, or other action may be initiated or taken by a school of nursing that has an agreement with the

~~Secretary pursuant to section 835 that is seeking the repayment of the amount due from a borrower on a loan made under this subpart after the default of the borrower on such loan.''.~~

~~(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be effective with respect to actions pending on or after the date of enactment of this Act.~~

~~(d) BREACH OF AGREEMENTS.—Section 338D of the Public Health Service Act is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:~~

~~''(g) BREACH OF AGREEMENT.—~~

~~''(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any program under this section under which an individual makes an agreement to provide health services for a period of time in accordance with such program in consideration of receiving an award of Federal funds regarding education as a nurse (including an award for the repayment of loans), the following applies if the agreement provides that this subsection is applicable:~~

~~''(A) In the case of a program under this section that makes an award of Federal funds for attending an accredited program of nursing (in this section referred to as a 'nursing pro-~~

~~gram'), the individual is liable to the Federal Government for the amount of such award (including amounts provided for expenses related to such attendance), and for interest on such amount at the maximum legal prevailing rate, if the individual—~~

~~"(i) fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing in the nursing program (as indicated by the program in accordance with requirements established by the Secretary);~~

~~"(ii) is dismissed from the nursing program for disciplinary reasons; or~~

~~"(iii) voluntarily terminates the nursing program.~~

~~"(B) The individual is liable to the Federal Government for the amount of such award (including amounts provided for expenses related to such attendance), and for interest on such amount at the maximum legal prevailing rate, if the individual fails to provide health services in accordance with the program under this section for the period of time applicable under the program.~~

~~"(2) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF LIABILITY.—In the case of an individual or health facility making an agreement for purposes of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide for the waiver or suspension of liability under such subsection if compliance by the individual or the health facility, as the case may be, with the agreements involved is impossible, or would involve extreme hardship to the individual or facility, and if enforcement of the agreements with respect to the individual or facility would be unconscionable.~~

~~"(3) DATE CERTAIN FOR RECOVERY.—Subject to paragraph (2), any amount that the Federal Government is entitled to recover under paragraph (1) shall be paid to the United States not later than the expiration of the 3-year period beginning on the date the United States becomes so entitled.~~

~~"(4) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts recovered under paragraph (1) with respect to a program under this section shall be available for the purposes of such program, and shall remain available for such purposes until expended.".~~

~~(c) TECHINICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 839 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297c) is amended—~~

~~(1) in subsection (a)—~~

(A) by striking the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(a) If a school terminates a loan fund established under an agreement pursuant to section 835(b), or if the Secretary for good cause terminates the agreement with the school, there shall be a capital distribution as follows:"; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking "at the close of September 30, 1999," and inserting "on the date of termination of the fund"; and

(2) in subsection (b), to read as follows:

"(b) If a capital distribution is made under subsection (a), the school involved shall, after such capital distribution, pay to the Secretary, not less often than quarterly, the same proportionate share of amounts received by the school in payment of principal or interest on loans made from the loan fund established under section 835(b) as determined by the Secretary under subsection (a).".

SEC. 134. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) MAXIMUM STUDENT LOAN PROVISIONS AND MINIMUM PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 722(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(a)(1)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103–43, is amended by striking "the sum of" and

all that follows through the end thereof and inserting "the cost of attendance (including tuition, other reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living costs) for that year at the educational institution attended by the student (as determined by such educational institution).".

(2) THIRD AND FOURTH YEARS.—Section 722(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(a)(2)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103–43, is amended by striking "the amount $2,500" and all that follows through "including such $2,500" and inserting "the amount of the loan may, in the case of the third or fourth year of a student at a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, be increased to the extent necessary".

(3) REPAYMENT PERIOD.—Section 722(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(c)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103–43, is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking "TEN-YEAR" and inserting "REPAYMENT";

(B) by striking "ten-year period which begins" and inserting "period of not less than 10

~~years nor more than 25 years, at the discretion of the institution, which begins'';~~ ~~and~~

~~(C) by striking ''such ten-year period'' and inserting ''such period''.~~

~~(4) MINIMUM PAYMENTS.—Section 722(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(j)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103–43, is amended by striking ''$15'' and inserting $40''.~~

~~(b) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—~~

~~(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 722 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103–43, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:~~

~~''(m) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—~~

~~''(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to ensure that obligations to repay loans under this section are enforced without regard to any Federal or State statutory, regulatory, or administrative limitation on the period within which debts may be enforced.~~

1 ~~"(2) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other~~
2 ~~provision of Federal or State law, no limitation shall~~
3 ~~terminate the period within which suit may be filed,~~
4 ~~a judgment may be enforced, or an offset, garnish-~~
5 ~~ment, or other action may be initiated or taken by~~
6 ~~a school that has an agreement with the Secretary~~
7 ~~pursuant to section 721 that is seeking the repay-~~
8 ~~ment of the amount due from a borrower on a loan~~
9 ~~made under this subpart after the default of the bor-~~
10 ~~rower on such loan.".~~
11 ~~(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made~~
12 ~~by paragraph (1) shall be effective with respect to~~
13 ~~actions pending on or after the date of enactment of~~
14 ~~this Act.~~
15 ~~(c) DATE CERTAIN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.—Para-~~
16 ~~graph (2) of section 735(c) of the Public Health Service~~
17 ~~Act (42 U.S.C. 292y(c)(2)) is amended to read as follows:~~
18 ~~"(2) DATE CERTAIN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.—~~
19 ~~Amounts described in paragraph (1) that are re-~~
20 ~~turned to the Secretary shall be obligated before the~~
21 ~~end of the succeeding fiscal year.".~~

~~CHAPTER 2—INSURED HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS TO GRADUATE STUDENTS~~

~~SEC. 141. HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM.~~

~~(a) HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN DEFERMENT FOR BORROWERS PROVIDING HEALTH SERVICES TO INDIANS.—~~

~~(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 705(a)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292d(a)(2)(C)) is amended by striking "and (x)" and inserting "(x) not in excess of three years, during which the borrower is providing health care services to Indians through an Indian health program (as defined in section 108(a)(2)(A) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a(a)(2)(A)); and (xi)".~~

~~(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 705(a)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292d(a)(2)(C)) is further amended—~~

~~(A) in clause (xi) (as so redesignated) by striking "(ix)" and inserting "(x)"; and~~

~~(B) in the matter following such clause (xi), by striking "(x)" and inserting "(xi)".~~

~~(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to services provided on or after the first day of the third~~

~~month that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.~~

~~(b) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 709(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292h(b)) is amended—~~

~~(1) in paragraph (4)(B), by adding "and" after the semicolon;~~

~~(2) in paragraph (5), by striking "; and" and inserting a period; and~~

~~(3) by striking paragraph (6).~~

~~(c) COLLECTION FROM ESTATES.—Section 714 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292m) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Notwithstanding the first sentence, the Secretary may, in the case of a borrower who dies, collect any remaining unpaid balance owed to the lender, the holder of the loan, or the Federal Government from the borrower's estate.".~~

~~(d) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.—~~

~~(1) LIMITATIONS ON LOANS.—Section 703(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292b(a)) is amended by striking "or clinical psychology" and inserting "or behavioral and mental health practice, including clinical psychology".~~

~~(2) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—Section 719(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42~~

~~U.S.C. 292o(1)) is amended by striking "or clinical psychology" and inserting "or behavioral and mental health practice, including clinical psychology".~~

~~SEC. 142. HEAL LENDER AND HOLDER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.~~

~~(a) GENERAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 707(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292f) is amended—~~

~~(1) by striking the last sentence;~~

~~(2) by striking "determined." and inserting "determined, except that, if the insurance beneficiary including any servicer of the loan is not designated for 'exceptional performance', as set forth in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pay to the beneficiary a sum equal to 98 percent of the amount of the loss sustained by the insured upon that loan.";~~

~~(3) by striking "Upon" and inserting:~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon"; and~~

~~(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:~~

~~"(2) EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE.—~~

~~"(A) AUTHORITY.—Where the Secretary determines that an eligible lender, holder, or servicer has a compliance performance rating that equals or exceeds 97 percent, the Secretary shall designate that eligible lender, holder, or~~

servicer, as the case may be, for exceptional performance.

"(B) COMPLIANCE PERFORMANCE RATING.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a compliance performance rating is determined with respect to compliance with due diligence in the disbursement, servicing, and collection of loans under this subpart for each year for which the determination is made. Such rating shall be equal to the percentage of all due diligence requirements applicable to each loan, on average, as established by the Secretary, with respect to loans serviced during the period by the eligible lender, holder, or servicer.

"(C) ANNUAL AUDITS FOR LENDERS, HOLDERS, AND SERVICERS.—Each eligible lender, holder, or servicer desiring a designation under subparagraph (A) shall have an annual financial and compliance audit conducted with respect to the loan portfolio of such eligible lender, holder, or servicer, by a qualified independent organization from a list of qualified organizations identified by the Secretary and in accordance with standards established by the Secretary. The standards shall measure the

~~lender's, holder's, or servicer's compliance with due diligence standards and shall include a defined statistical sampling technique designed to measure the performance rating of the eligible lender, holder, or servicer for the purpose of this section. Each eligible lender, holder, or servicer shall submit the audit required by this section to the Secretary.~~

~~"(D) SECRETARY'S DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall make the determination under subparagraph (A) based upon the audits submitted under this paragraph and any information in the possession of the Secretary or submitted by any other agency or office of the Federal Government.~~

~~"(E) QUARTERLY COMPLIANCE AUDIT.—To maintain its status as an exceptional performer, the lender, holder, or servicer shall undergo a quarterly compliance audit at the end of each quarter (other than the quarter in which status as an exceptional performer is established through a financial and compliance audit, as described in subparagraph (C)), and submit the results of such audit to the Secretary. The compliance audit shall review com-~~

~~pliance with due diligence requirements for the period beginning on the day after the ending date of the previous audit, in accordance with standards determined by the Secretary.~~

~~"(F) REVOCATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall revoke the designation of a lender, holder, or servicer under subparagraph (A) if any quarterly audit required under subparagraph (E) is not received by the Secretary by the date established by the Secretary or if the audit indicates the lender, holder, or servicer has failed to meet the standards for designation as an exceptional performer under subparagraph (A). A lender, holder, or servicer receiving a compliance audit not meeting the standard for designation as an exceptional performer may reapply for designation under subparagraph (A) at any time.~~

~~"(G) DOCUMENTATION.—Nothing in this section shall restrict or limit the authority of the Secretary to require the submission of claims documentation evidencing servicing performed on loans, except that the Secretary may not require exceptional performers to submit greater documentation than that required for~~

~~lenders, holders, and servicers not designated under subparagraph (A).~~

~~"(H) COST OF AUDITS.—Each eligible lender, holder, or servicer shall pay for all the costs associated with the audits required under this section.~~

~~"(I) ADDITIONAL REVOCATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a designation under subparagraph (A) may be revoked at any time by the Secretary if the Secretary determines that the eligible lender, holder, or servicer has failed to maintain an overall level of compliance consistent with the audit submitted by the eligible lender, holder, or servicer under this paragraph or if the Secretary asserts that the lender, holder, or servicer may have engaged in fraud in securing designation under subparagraph (A) or is failing to service loans in accordance with program requirements.~~

~~"(J) NONCOMPLIANCE.—A lender, holder, or servicer designated under subparagraph (A) that fails to service loans or otherwise comply with applicable program regulations shall be~~

~~considered in violation of the Federal False Claims Act.''.~~

~~(b) DEFINITION.—Section 707(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292f(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:~~

~~''(4) The term 'servicer' means any agency acting on behalf of the insurance beneficiary.''.~~

~~(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to loans submitted to the Secretary for payment on or after the first day of the sixth month that begins after the date of enactment of this Act.~~

~~SEC. 143. REAUTHORIZATION.~~

~~(a) LOAN PROGRAM.—Section 702(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292a(a)) is amended—~~

~~(1) by striking ''$350,000,000'' and all that follows through ''1995'' and inserting ''$350,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, $375,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, and $425,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2002'';~~

~~(2) by striking ''obtained prior loans insured under this subpart'' and inserting ''obtained loans insured under this subpart in fiscal year 2002 or in prior fiscal years'';~~

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: ''The Secretary may establish guidelines and procedures that lenders must follow in distributing funds under this subpart.''; and

(4) by striking ''September 30, 1998'' and inserting ''September 30, 2005''.

(b) INSURANCE PROGRAM.—Section 710(a)(2)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292i(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking ''any of the fiscal years 1993 through 1996'' and inserting ''fiscal year 1993 and subsequent fiscal years''.

SEC. 144. HEAL BANKRUPTCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292f(g)) is amended in the first sentence by striking ''A debt which is a loan insured'' and inserting ''Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, a debt that is a loan insured''.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any loan insured under the authority of subpart I of part A of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq.) that is listed or scheduled by the debtor in a case under title XI, United States Code, filed—

(1) on or after the date of enactment of this Act; or

~~(2) prior to such date of enactment in which a discharge has not been granted.~~

~~SEC. 145. HEAL REFINANCING.~~

~~Section 706 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292e) is amended—~~

~~(1) in subsection (d)—~~

~~(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "CONSOLIDATION" and inserting "REFINANCING OR CONSOLIDATION"; and~~

~~(B) in the first sentence, by striking "indebtedness" and inserting "indebtedness or the refinancing of a single loan"; and~~

~~(2) in subsection (e)—~~

~~(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "DEBTS" and inserting "DEBTS AND REFINANCING";~~

~~(B) in the first sentence, by striking "all of the borrower's debts into a single instrument" and inserting "all of the borrower's loans insured under this subpart into a single instrument (or, if the borrower obtained only 1 loan insured under this subpart, refinancing the loan 1 time)"; and~~

~~(C) in the second sentence, by striking "consolidation" and inserting "consolidation or refinancing".~~

~~TITLE II—OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH~~

~~SEC. 201. REVISION AND EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS OF OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH.~~

~~(a) DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1707 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6) is amended by striking subsection (b) and all that follows and inserting the following:~~

~~"(b) DUTIES.—With respect to improving the health of racial and ethnic minority groups, the Secretary, acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health (in this section referred to as the 'Deputy Assistant Secretary'), shall carry out the following:~~

~~"(1) Establish short-range and long-range goals and objectives and coordinate all other activities within the Public Health Service that relate to disease prevention, health promotion, service delivery, and research concerning such individuals. The heads of each of the agencies of the Service shall consult with the Deputy Assistant Secretary to ensure the coordination of such activities.~~

~~"(2) Enter into interagency agreements with other agencies of the Public Health Service.~~

~~"(3) Support research, demonstrations and evaluations to test new and innovative models.~~

~~"(4) Increase knowledge and understanding of health risk factors.~~

~~"(5) Develop mechanisms that support better information dissemination, education, prevention, and service delivery to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups.~~

~~"(6) Ensure that the National Center for Health Statistics collects data on the health status of each minority group.~~

~~"(7) With respect to individuals who lack proficiency in speaking the English language, enter into contracts with public and nonprofit private providers of primary health services for the purpose of increasing the access of the individuals to such services by developing and carrying out programs to provide bilingual or interpretive services.~~

~~"(8) Support a national minority health resource center to carry out the following:~~

~~"(A) Facilitate the exchange of information regarding matters relating to health infor-~~

~~mation and health promotion, preventive health services, and education in the appropriate use of health care.~~

~~"(B) Facilitate access to such information.~~

~~"(C) Assist in the analysis of issues and problems relating to such matters.~~

~~"(D) Provide technical assistance with respect to the exchange of such information (including facilitating the development of materials for such technical assistance).~~

~~"(9) Carry out programs to improve access to health care services for individuals with limited proficiency in speaking the English language. Activities under the preceding sentence shall include developing and evaluating model projects.~~

~~"(e) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on Minority Health (in this subsection referred to as the 'Committee').~~

~~"(2) DUTIES.—The Committee shall provide advice to the Deputy Assistant Secretary carrying out this section, including advice on the development of goals and specific program activities under para-~~

graphs (1) through (9) of subsection (b) for each racial and ethnic minority group.

"(3) CHAIR.—The chairperson of the Committee shall be selected by the Secretary from among the members of the voting members of the Committee. The term of office of the chairperson shall be 2 years.

"(4) COMPOSITION.—

"(A) The Committee shall be composed of 12 voting members appointed in accordance with subparagraph (B), and nonvoting, ex officio members designated in subparagraph (C).

"(B) The voting members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government and who have expertise regarding issues of minority health. The racial and ethnic minority groups shall be equally represented among such members.

"(C) The nonvoting, ex officio members of the Committee shall be such officials of the Department of Health and Human Services as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

~~"(5) TERMS.—Each member of the Committee shall serve for a term of 4 years, except that the Secretary shall initially appoint a portion of the members to terms of 1 year, 2 years, and 3 years.~~

~~"(6) VACANCIES.—If a vacancy occurs on the Committee, a new member shall be appointed by the Secretary within 90 days from the date that the vacancy occurs, and serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of such member was appointed. The vacancy shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the duties of the Committee.~~

~~"(7) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Committee who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation. Members of the Committee who are not officers or employees of the United States shall receive compensation, for each day (including travel time) they are engaged in the performance of the functions of the Committee. Such compensation may not be in an amount in excess of the daily equivalent of the annual maximum rate of basic pay payable under the General Schedule (under title 5, United States Code) for positions above GS–15.~~

1 ~~"(d) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS REGARDING DU-~~
2 ~~TIES.—~~
3 ~~"(1) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LAN-~~
4 ~~GUAGE AS IMPEDIMENT TO HEALTH CARE.—The~~
5 ~~Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health~~
6 ~~shall consult with the Director of the Office of Refu-~~
7 ~~gee Health, the Director of the Office of Civil~~
8 ~~Rights, and the Directors of other appropriate De-~~
9 ~~partmental entities regarding recommendations for~~
10 ~~carrying out activities under subsection (b)(9).~~
11 ~~"(2) EQUITABLE ALLOCATION REGARDING AC-~~
12 ~~TIVITIES.—~~
13 ~~"(A) IN GENERAL.—In making awards of~~
14 ~~grants, cooperative agreements, or contracts~~
15 ~~under this section or section 338A, 338C,~~
16 ~~340A, 404, or 724, or part B of title VII, the~~
17 ~~Secretary, acting as appropriate through the~~
18 ~~Deputy Assistant Secretary or the Administrator~~
19 ~~of the Health Resources and Services Ad-~~
20 ~~ministration, shall ensure that such awards are~~
21 ~~equitably allocated with respect to the various~~
22 ~~racial and minority populations.~~
23 ~~"(B) REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to~~
24 ~~grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts~~

that are available under the sections specified in subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

"(i) carry out activities to inform entities, as appropriate, that the entities may be eligible for awards of such assistance;

"(ii) provide technical assistance to such entities in the process of preparing and submitting applications for the awards in accordance with the policies of the Secretary regarding such application; and

"(iii) inform populations, as appropriate, that members of the populations may be eligible to receive services or otherwise participate in the activities carried out with such awards.

"(3) CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF SERVICES.—The Secretary shall ensure that information and services provided pursuant to subsection (b) are provided in the language, educational, and cultural context that is most appropriate for the individuals for whom the information and services are intended.

"(c) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS REGARDING DUTIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary acting through the Deputy Assist-

~~ant Secretary may make awards of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to public and nonprofit private entities.~~

~~"(2) PROCESS FOR MAKING AWARDS.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary shall ensure that awards under paragraph (1) are made only on a competitive basis, and that a grant is awarded for a proposal only if the proposal has been recommended for such an award through a process of peer review.~~

~~"(3) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary, directly or through contracts with public and private entities, shall provide for evaluations of projects carried out with awards made under paragraph (1) during the preceding 2 fiscal years. The report shall be included in the report required under subsection (f) for the fiscal year involved.~~

~~"(f) REPORTS.—~~

~~"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1 of fiscal year 1999 and of each second year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, a report describing the activities carried out under this section during~~

~~the preceding 2 fiscal years and evaluating the extent to which such activities have been effective in improving the health of racial and ethnic minority groups. Each such report shall include the biennial reports submitted under sections 201(e)(3) and 201(f)(2) for such years by the heads of the Public Health Service agencies.~~

~~"(2) AGENCY REPORTS.—Not later than February 1, 1999, and biennially thereafter, the heads of the Public Health Service agencies shall submit to the Deputy Assistant Secretary a report summarizing the minority health activities of each of the respective agencies.~~

~~"(g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section:~~

~~"(1) The term 'racial and ethnic minority group' means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics.~~

~~"(2) The term 'Hispanic' means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country.~~

~~"(h) FUNDING.—~~

~~"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there~~

~~are authorized to be appropriated $30,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.~~

~~"(2) NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS.—For the purpose of enabling the National Center for Health Statistics to collect data on Hispanics and major Hispanic subpopulation groups, American Indians, and to develop special area population studies on major Asian American and Pacific Islander populations, there are authorized to be appropriated $1,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.".~~

~~(b) MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS.—Section 1707 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6) is amended—~~

~~(1) in the heading for the section by striking "ESTABLISHMENT OF"; and~~

~~(2) in subsection (a), by striking "Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health" and inserting "Office of Public Health and Science".~~

~~TITLE III—SELECTED INITIATIVES~~

~~SEC. 301. STATE OFFICES OF RURAL HEALTH.~~

~~(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 338J of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254r) is amended—~~

~~(1) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "in cash"; and~~

~~(2) in subsection (j)(1)—~~

~~(A) by striking "and" after "1992,"; and~~

~~(B) by inserting before the period the following: ", and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002"; and~~

~~(3) in subsection (k), by striking "$10,000,000" and inserting "$20,000,000".~~

~~(b) REPEAL.—Effective on October 1, 2002, section 338J of the Public Health Service Act is repealed.~~

~~SEC. 302. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS REGARDING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.~~

~~(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 398(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280c–3(a)) is amended—~~

~~(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "not less than 5, and not more than 15,";~~

~~(2) in paragraph (2)—~~

~~(A) by inserting after "disorders" the following: "who are living in single family homes or in congregate settings"; and~~

~~(B) by striking "and" at the end;~~

~~(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and~~

~~(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:~~

~~"(3) to improve the access of such individuals to home-based or community-based long-term care services (subject to the services being provided by entities that were providing such services in the State involved as of October 1, 1995), particularly such individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups, who have limited proficiency in speaking the English language, or who live in rural areas; and".~~

~~(b) DURATION.—Section 398A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280c–4) is amended—~~

~~(1) in the heading for the section, by striking "**LIMITATION**" and all that follows and inserting "**REQUIREMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS**";~~

~~(2) by striking subsection (a);~~

~~(3) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively;~~

~~(4) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated), in each of paragraphs (1)(C) and (2)(C), by striking "third year" and inserting "third or subsequent year".~~

~~(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 398B(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280c–5(c)) is amended—~~

~~(1) by striking "and such sums" and inserting "such sums"; and~~

~~(2) by inserting before the period the following: ", $8,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002".~~

~~SEC. 303. PROJECT GRANTS FOR IMMUNIZATION SERVICES.~~

~~Section 317(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b(j)) is amended—~~

~~(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "individuals against vaccine-preventable diseases" and all that follows through the first period and inserting the following: "children, adolescents, and adults against vaccine-preventable diseases, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002."; and~~

~~(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "1990" and inserting "1997".~~

~~TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS~~

~~SEC. 401. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS REGARDING PUBLIC LAW 103–183.~~

~~(a) AMENDATORY INSTRUCTIONS.—Public Law 103–183 is amended—~~

~~(1) in section 601—~~

~~(A) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "Section 1201 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d)" and inserting "Title XII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d et seq.)"; and~~

~~(B) in subsection (f)(1), by striking "in section 1204(c)" and inserting "in section 1203(c) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(2) of this section)";~~

~~(2) in section 602, by striking "for the purpose" and inserting "For the purpose"; and~~

~~(3) in section 705(b), by striking "317D((l)(1)" and inserting "317D(l)(1)".~~

~~(b) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—The Public Health Service Act, as amended by Public Law 103–183 and by subsection (a) of this section, is amended—~~

~~(1) in section 317E(g)(2), by striking "making grants under subsection (b)" and inserting "carrying out subsection (b)";~~

~~(2) in section 318, in subsection (c) as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of Public Law 103–183, by redesignating the subsection as subsection (f);~~

~~(3) in subpart 6 of part C of title IV—~~

~~(A) by transferring the first section 447 (added by section 302 of Public Law 103–183) from the current placement of the section;~~

~~(B) by redesignating the section as section 447A; and~~

~~(C) by inserting the section after section 447;~~

~~(4) in section 1213(a)(8), by striking "provides for for" and inserting "provides for";~~

~~(5) in section 1501, by redesignating the second subsection (c) (added by section 101(f) of Public Law 103–183) as subsection (d); and~~

~~(6) in section 1505(3), by striking "nonprivate" and inserting "private".~~

~~(c) MISCELLANEOUS CORRECTION.—Section 401(c)(3) of Public Law 103–183 is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "(d)(5)" and inserting "(e)(5)".~~

~~(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section is deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Public Law 103–183.~~

~~SEC. 402. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS REGARDING PHS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.~~

~~(a) ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS.—Amend section 212 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 213) by adding the following new subsection at the end thereof:~~

~~"(f) Active service of commissioned officers of the Service shall be deemed to be active military service in the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of all laws related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, gender, ethnicity, age, religion, and disability."~~

~~(b) TRAINING IN LEAVE WITHOUT PAY STATUS.—Section 218 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 218a) is amended by adding at the end the following:~~

~~"(e) A commissioned officer may be placed in leave without pay status while attending an educational institution or training program whenever the Secretary determines that such status is in the best interest of the Service. For purposes of computation of basic pay, promotion,~~

~~retirement, compensation for injury or death, and the benefits provided by sections 212 and 224, an officer in such status pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be considered as performing service in the Service and shall have an active service obligation as set forth in subsection (b) of this section.''.~~

~~(c) UTILIZATION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE RECORDS THAT APPLY TO THE ARMED FORCES.—Section 543(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd–2(c)) is amended by striking ''Armed Forces'' each place that such term appears and inserting ''Uniformed Services''.~~

~~SEC. 403. CLINICAL TRAINEESHIPS.~~

~~Section 303(d)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242a(d)(1)) is amended by inserting ''counseling,'' after ''family therapy,''.~~

~~SEC. 404. PROJECT GRANTS FOR SCREENINGS, REFERRALS, AND EDUCATION REGARDING LEAD POISONING.~~

~~Section 317A(l)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–1(l)(1)) is amended by striking ''1998'' and inserting ''2004''.~~

~~SEC. 405. PROJECT GRANTS FOR PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES REGARDING TUBERCULOSIS.~~

~~Section 317E(g)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–6(g)(1)) is amended—~~

~~(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "1998" and inserting "2004"; and~~

~~(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "$50,000,000" and inserting "25 percent".~~

~~SEC. 406. CERTAIN AUTHORITIES OF CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.~~

~~(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title III of the Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after section 317H the following section:~~

~~"MISCELLANEOUS AUTHORITIES REGARDING CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION~~

~~"SEC. 317I. The Secretary, acting through the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, may, without regard to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, governing appointments in the competitive service, and without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of such title relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates, establish such technical and scientific peer review groups and scientific program advisory committees as are needed to carry out the functions of such Centers and appoint and pay the members of such groups, except that officers and~~

~~employees of the United States shall not receive additional compensation for service as members of such groups. The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the duration of such peer review groups. Not more than one-fourth of the members of any such group shall be officers or employees of the United States.''.~~

~~(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section is deemed to have taken effect July 1, 1995.~~

~~SEC. 407. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.~~

~~(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 318(h)(2) of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42 U.S.C. 10418(h)(2)) is amended by striking ''fiscal year 1997'' and inserting ''for each of the fiscal years 1997 through 2002''.~~

~~(b) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall request that the Institute of Medicine conduct a study concerning the training needs of health professionals with respect to the detection and referral of victims of family or acquaintance violence. Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Institute of Medicine shall prepare and submit to Congress a report concerning the study conducted under this subsection.~~

~~SEC. 408. STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.~~

~~Section 338I(i)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254q–1(i)(1)) is amended by inserting before the period ", and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002".~~

~~SEC. 409. CONSTRUCTION OF REGIONAL CENTERS FOR RESEARCH ON PRIMATES.~~

~~Section 481B(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 287a–3(a)) is amended—~~

~~(1) by striking "shall" and inserting "may"; and~~

~~(2) by striking "$5,000,000" and inserting "up to $2,500,000".~~

~~SEC. 410. PEER REVIEW.~~

~~Section 504(d)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa–3(d)(2)) is amended by striking "cooperative agreement, or contract" each place that such appears and inserting "or cooperative agreement".~~

~~SEC. 411. FUNDING FOR TRAUMA CARE.~~

~~Section 1232(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d–32) is amended by striking "and 1996" and inserting "through 2002".~~

~~SEC. 412. HEALTH INFORMATION AND HEALTH PROMOTION.~~

~~Section 1701(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u(b)) is amended by striking "through 1996" and inserting "through 2002".~~

~~SEC. 413. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.~~

~~Section 1910 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300w–9) is amended—~~

~~(1) in subsection (a)—~~

~~(A) by striking "two-year period" and inserting "3-year period (with an optional 4th year based on performance)"; and~~

~~(B) by striking "one grant" and inserting "3 grants"; and~~

~~(2) in subsection (d), by striking "1997" and inserting "2005".~~

~~SEC. 414. ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.~~

~~(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2004 of Public Law 103–43 (107 Stat. 209) is amended by striking subsection (a).~~

~~(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2004 of Public Law 103–43, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, is amended—~~

~~(1) by striking "(b) SENSE" and all that follows through "In the case" and inserting the following:~~

~~"(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS.—In the case";~~

~~(2) by striking "(2) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE" and inserting the following:~~

~~"(b) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE"; and~~

~~(3) in subsection (b), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking "paragraph (1)" and inserting "subsection (a)".~~

~~(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section is deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Public Law 103–43.~~

~~SEC. 415. AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.~~

~~Section 2618(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ff–28(b)(3)) is amended—~~

~~(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" and inserting ", the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam"; and~~

~~(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "the Virgin Islands, Guam".~~

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998".

1 *(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this*

2 *Act is as follows:*

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Health Professions Education Programs

Sec. 101. Under-represented minority health professions grant program.
Sec. 102. Training in primary care medicine and dentistry.
Sec. 103. Interdisciplinary, community-based linkages.
Sec. 104. Health professions workforce information and analysis.
Sec. 105. Public health workforce development.
Sec. 106. General provisions.
Sec. 107. Preference in certain programs.
Sec. 108. Definitions.
Sec. 109. Technical amendment on National Health Service Corps.
Sec. 110. Savings provision.

Subtitle B—Nursing Workforce Development

Sec. 121. Short title.
Sec. 122. Purpose.
Sec. 123. Amendments to Public Health Service Act.
Sec. 124. Savings provision.

Subtitle C—Financial Assistance

CHAPTER 1—SCHOOL-BASED REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS

Sec. 131. Primary care loan program.
Sec. 132. Loans for disadvantaged students.
Sec. 133. Student loans regarding schools of nursing.
Sec. 134. General provisions.

CHAPTER 2—INSURED HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS TO GRADUATE STUDENTS

Sec. 141. Health Education Assistance Loan Program.
Sec. 142. HEAL lender and holder performance standards.
Sec. 143. Reauthorization.
Sec. 144. HEAL bankruptcy.
Sec. 145. HEAL refinancing.

TITLE II—OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH

Sec. 201. Revision and extension of programs of Office of Minority Health.

TITLE III—SELECTED INITIATIVES

Sec. 301. State offices of rural health.
Sec. 302. Demonstration projects regarding Alzheimer's Disease.
Sec. 303. Project grants for immunization services.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Technical corrections regarding Public Law 103–183.
Sec. 402. Miscellaneous amendments regarding PHS commissioned officers.
Sec. 403. Clinical traineeships.
Sec. 404. Project grants for screenings, referrals, and education regarding lead poisoning.
Sec. 405. Project grants for preventive health services regarding tuberculosis.
Sec. 406. CDC loan repayment program.
Sec. 407. Community programs on domestic violence.
Sec. 408. State loan repayment program.
Sec. 409. Authority of the director of NIH.
Sec. 410. Raise in maximum level of loan repayments.
Sec. 411. Construction of regional centers for research on primates.
Sec. 412. Peer review.
Sec. 413. Funding for trauma care.
Sec. 414. Health information and health promotion.
Sec. 415. Emergency medical services for children.
Sec. 416. Administration of certain requirements.
Sec. 417. Aids drug assistance program.
Sec. 418. National Foundation for Biomedical Research.

TITLE I—HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Health Professions Education Programs

SEC. 101. UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

"PART B—HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING FOR DIVERSITY

"SEC. 736. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to, and enter into contracts with, designated health professions schools described in subsection (c), and other public

and nonprofit health or educational entities, for the purpose of assisting the schools in supporting programs of excellence in health professions education for under-represented minority individuals.

"(b) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may not make a grant under subsection (a) unless the designated health professions school involved agrees, subject to subsection (c)(1)(C), to expend the grant—

"(1) to develop a large competitive applicant pool through linkages with institutions of higher education, local school districts, and other community-based entities and establish an education pipeline for health professions careers;

"(2) to establish, strengthen, or expand programs to enhance the academic performance of under-represented minority students attending the school;

"(3) to improve the capacity of such school to train, recruit, and retain under-represented minority faculty including the payment of such stipends and fellowships as the Secretary may determine appropriate;

"(4) to carry out activities to improve the information resources, clinical education, curricula and cultural competence of the graduates of the school, as it relates to minority health issues;

"(5) to facilitate faculty and student research on health issues particularly affecting under-represented minority groups, including research on issues relating to the delivery of health care;

"(6) to carry out a program to train students of the school in providing health services to a significant number of under-represented minority individuals through training provided to such students at community-based health facilities that—

"(A) provide such health services; and

"(B) are located at a site remote from the main site of the teaching facilities of the school; and

"(7) to provide stipends as the Secretary determines appropriate, in amounts as the Secretary determines appropriate.

"(c) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

"(1) DESIGNATED SCHOOLS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The designated health professions schools referred to in subsection (a) are such schools that meet each of the conditions specified in subparagraphs (B) and (C), and that—

"(i) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (2)(A);

"(ii) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (3);

"(iii) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (4); or

"(iv) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (5).

"(B) GENERAL CONDITIONS.—The conditions specified in this subparagraph are that a designated health professions school—

"(i) has a significant number of under-represented minority individuals enrolled in the school, including individuals accepted for enrollment in the school;

"(ii) has been effective in assisting under-represented minority students of the school to complete the program of education and receive the degree involved;

"(iii) has been effective in recruiting under-represented minority individuals to enroll in and graduate from the school, including providing scholarships and other financial assistance to such individuals and encouraging under-represented minority students from all levels of the educational

pipeline to pursue health professions careers; and

"(iv) has made significant recruitment efforts to increase the number of under-represented minority individuals serving in faculty or administrative positions at the school.

"(C) CONSORTIUM.—The condition specified in this subparagraph is that, in accordance with subsection (e)(1), the designated health profession school involved has with other health profession schools (designated or otherwise) formed a consortium to carry out the purposes described in subsection (b) at the schools of the consortium.

"(D) APPLICATION OF CRITERIA TO OTHER PROGRAMS.—In the case of any criteria established by the Secretary for purposes of determining whether schools meet the conditions described in subparagraph (B), this section may not, with respect to racial and ethnic minorities, be construed to authorize, require, or prohibit the use of such criteria in any program other than the program established in this section.

"(2) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT CERTAIN HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—

"(A) CONDITIONS.—The conditions specified in this subparagraph are that a designated health professions school—

"(i) is a school described in section 799B(1); and

"(ii) received a contract under section 788B for fiscal year 1987, as such section was in effect for such fiscal year.

"(B) USE OF GRANT.—In addition to the purposes described in subsection (b), a grant under subsection (a) to a designated health professions school meeting the conditions described in subparagraph (A) may be expended—

"(i) to develop a plan to achieve institutional improvements, including financial independence, to enable the school to support programs of excellence in health professions education for under-represented minority individuals; and

"(ii) to provide improved access to the library and informational resources of the school.

"(C) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of paragraph (1)(C) shall not apply to a histori-

cally black college or university that receives funding under paragraphs (2) or (5).

"(3) HISPANIC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The conditions specified in this paragraph are that—

"(A) with respect to Hispanic individuals, each of clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) applies to the designated health professions school involved;

"(B) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that the school will, in carrying out the duties described in subsection (b), give priority to carrying out the duties with respect to Hispanic individuals; and

"(C) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that—

"(i) the school will establish an arrangement with 1 or more public or nonprofit community based Hispanic serving organizations, or public or nonprofit private institutions of higher education, including schools of nursing, whose enrollment of students has traditionally included a significant number of Hispanic individuals,

the purposes of which will be to carry out a program—

"(I) to identify Hispanic students who are interested in a career in the health profession involved; and

"(II) to facilitate the educational preparation of such students to enter the health professions school; and

"(ii) the school will make efforts to recruit Hispanic students, including students who have participated in the undergraduate or other matriculation program carried out under arrangements established by the school pursuant to clause (i)(II) and will assist Hispanic students regarding the completion of the educational requirements for a degree from the school.

"(4) NATIVE AMERICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Subject to subsection (e), the conditions specified in this paragraph are that—

"(A) with respect to Native Americans, each of clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) applies to the designated health professions school involved;

"(B) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that the school will, in carrying out the duties described in subsection (b), give priority to carrying out the duties with respect to Native Americans; and

"(C) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that—

"(i) the school will establish an arrangement with 1 or more public or nonprofit private institutions of higher education, including schools of nursing, whose enrollment of students has traditionally included a significant number of Native Americans, the purpose of which arrangement will be to carry out a program—

"(I) to identify Native American students, from the institutions of higher education referred to in clause (i), who are interested in health professions careers; and

"(II) to facilitate the educational preparation of such students to enter the designated health professions school; and

"(ii) the designated health professions school will make efforts to recruit Native American students, including students who have participated in the undergraduate program carried out under arrangements established by the school pursuant to clause (i) and will assist Native American students regarding the completion of the educational requirements for a degree from the designated health professions school.

"(5) OTHER CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The conditions specified in this paragraph are—

"(A) with respect to other centers of excellence, the conditions described in clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (1)(B); and

"(B) that the health professions school involved has an enrollment of under-represented minorities above the national average for such enrollments of health professions schools.

"(d) DESIGNATION AS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Any designated health professions school receiving a grant under subsection (a) and meeting the conditions described in paragraph (2) or (5) of subsection (c) shall, for purposes of this section, be designated by the Secretary as a Center of

Excellence in Under-Represented Minority Health Professions Education.

"(2) HISPANIC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Any designated health professions school receiving a grant under subsection (a) and meeting the conditions described in subsection (c)(3) shall, for purposes of this section, be designated by the Secretary as a Hispanic Center of Excellence in Health Professions Education.

"(3) NATIVE AMERICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Any designated health professions school receiving a grant under subsection (a) and meeting the conditions described in subsection (c)(4) shall, for purposes of this section, be designated by the Secretary as a Native American Center of Excellence in Health Professions Education. Any consortium receiving such a grant pursuant to subsection (e) shall, for purposes of this section, be so designated.

"(e) AUTHORITY REGARDING NATIVE AMERICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—With respect to meeting the conditions specified in subsection (c)(4), the Secretary may make a grant under subsection (a) to a designated health professions school that does not meet such conditions if—

"(1) the school has formed a consortium in accordance with subsection (d)(1); and

"(2) the schools of the consortium collectively meet such conditions, without regard to whether the schools individually meet such conditions.

"(f) DURATION OF GRANT.—The period during which payments are made under a grant under subsection (a) may not exceed 5 years. Such payments shall be subject to annual approval by the Secretary and to the availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to make the payments.

"(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOL.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'health professions school' means, except as provided in subparagraph (B), a school of medicine, a school of osteopathic medicine, a school of dentistry, a school of pharmacy, or a graduate program in behavioral or mental health.

"(B) EXCEPTION.—The definition established in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the use of the term 'designated health professions school' for purposes of subsection (c)(2).

"(2) PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE.—The term 'program of excellence' means any program carried out by a designated health professions school with a grant

made under subsection (a), if the program is for purposes for which the school involved is authorized in subsection (b) or (c) to expend the grant.

"(3) NATIVE AMERICANS.—The term 'Native Americans' means American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians.

"(h) FUNDING.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of making grants under subsection (a), there authorized to be appropriated $26,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

"(2) ALLOCATIONS.—Based on the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, one of the following subparagraphs shall apply:

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year are $24,000,000 or less—

"(i) the Secretary shall make available $12,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(2)(A); and

"(ii) and available after grants are made with funds under clause (i), the Secretary shall make available—

"(I) 60 percent of such amount for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (c) (including meeting the conditions under subsection (e)); and

"(II) 40 percent of such amount for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(5).

"(B) FUNDING IN EXCESS OF $24,000,000.—If amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year exceed $24,000,000 but are less than $30,000,000—

"(i) 80 percent of such excess amounts shall be made available for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the requirements described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (c) (in-

cluding meeting conditions pursuant to subsection (e)); and

"(ii) 20 percent of such excess amount shall be made available for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(5).

"(C) FUNDING IN EXCESS OF $30,000,000.—If amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year are $30,000,000 or more, the Secretary shall make available—

"(i) not less than $12,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(2)(A);

"(ii) not less than $12,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (c) (including meeting conditions pursuant to subsection (e));

"(iii) not less than $6,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(5); and

"(iv) after grants are made with funds under clauses (i) through (iii), any remaining funds for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in paragraph (2)(A), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (c).

"(3) NO LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting the centers of excellence referred to in this section to the designated amount, or to preclude such entities from competing for other grants under this section.

"(4) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to activities for which a grant made under this part are authorized to be expended, the Secretary may not make such a grant to a center of excellence for any fiscal year unless the center agrees to maintain expenditures of non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the center for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the school receives such a grant.

"(B) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—With respect to any Federal amounts received by a center of excellence and available for carrying out

activities for which a grant under this part is authorized to be expended, the Secretary may not make such a grant to the center for any fiscal year unless the center agrees that the center will, before expending the grant, expend the Federal amounts obtained from sources other than the grant.

"SEC. 737. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a grant to an eligible entity (as defined in subsection (d)(1)) under this section for the awarding of scholarships by schools to any full-time student who is an eligible individual as defined in subsection (d). Such scholarships may be expended only for tuition expenses, other reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses incurred in the attendance of such school.

"(b) PREFERENCE IN PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS.—The Secretary may not make a grant to an entity under subsection (a) unless the health professions and nursing schools involved agree that, in providing scholarships pursuant to the grant, the schools will give preference to students for whom the costs of attending the schools would constitute a severe financial hardship and, notwithstanding other provisions of this section, to former recipients of schol-

arships under sections 736 and 740(d)(2)(B) (as such sections existed on the day before the date of enactment of this section).

"(c) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—In awarding grants to eligible entities that are health professions and nursing schools, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities based on the proportion of graduating students going into primary care, the proportion of underrepresented minority students, and the proportion of graduates working in medically underserved communities.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term 'eligible entities' means an entity that—

"(A) is a school of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing (as defined in section 801), pharmacy, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, public health, chiropractic, or allied health, a school offering a graduate program in behavioral and mental health practice, or an entity providing programs for the training of physician assistants; and

"(B) is carrying out a program for recruiting and retaining students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including students who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups.

"(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'eligible individual' means an individual who—

"(A) is from a disadvantaged background;

"(B) has a financial need for a scholarship; and

"(C) is enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at an eligible health professions or nursing school as a full-time student in a program leading to a degree in a health profession or nursing.

"SEC. 738. LOAN REPAYMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS REGARDING FACULTY POSITIONS.

"(a) LOAN REPAYMENTS.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program of entering into contracts with individuals described in paragraph (2) under which the individuals agree to serve as members of the faculties of schools described in paragraph (3) in consideration of the Federal Government agreeing to pay, for each year of such service, not more than $20,000 of the principal and interest of the educational loans of such individuals.

"(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The individuals referred to in paragraph (1) are individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who—

"(A) have a degree in medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing, or another health profession;

"(B) are enrolled in an approved graduate training program in medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing, or other health profession; or

"(C) are enrolled as full-time students—

"(i) in an accredited (as determined by the Secretary) school described in paragraph (3); and

"(ii) in the final year of a course of a study or program, offered by such institution and approved by the Secretary, leading to a degree from such a school.

"(3) ELIGIBLE HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOLS.—The schools described in this paragraph are schools of medicine, nursing (as schools of nursing are defined in section 801), osteopathic medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, allied health, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, or public health, or schools offering graduate programs in behavioral and mental health.

"(4) REQUIREMENTS REGARDING FACULTY POSITIONS.—The Secretary may not enter into a contract under paragraph (1) unless—

"(A) the individual involved has entered into a contract with a school described in paragraph (3) to serve as a member of the faculty of the school for not less than 2 years; and

"(B) the contract referred to in subparagraph (A) provides that—

"(i) the school will, for each year for which the individual will serve as a member of the faculty under the contract with the school, make payments of the principal and interest due on the educational loans of the individual for such year in an amount equal to the amount of such payments made by the Secretary for the year;

"(ii) the payments made by the school pursuant to clause (i) on behalf of the individual will be in addition to the pay that the individual would otherwise receive for serving as a member of such faculty; and

"(iii) the school, in making a determination of the amount of compensation to be provided by the school to the individual

for serving as a member of the faculty, will make the determination without regard to the amount of payments made (or to be made) to the individual by the Federal Government under paragraph (1).

"(5) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—The provisions of sections 338C, 338G, and 338I shall apply to the program established in paragraph (1) to the same extent and in the same manner as such provisions apply to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program established in subpart III of part D of title III, including the applicability of provisions regarding reimbursements for increased tax liability and regarding bankruptcy.

"(6) WAIVER REGARDING SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary may waive the requirement established in paragraph (4)(B) if the Secretary determines that the requirement will impose an undue financial hardship on the school involved.

"(b) FELLOWSHIPS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities to assist such entities in increasing the number of underrepresented minority individuals who are members of the faculty of such schools.

"(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under this subsection, an entity shall provide an assurance, in the application submitted by the entity, that—

"(A) amounts received under such a grant or contract will be used to award a fellowship to an individual only if the individual meets the requirements of paragraphs (3) and (4); and

"(B) each fellowship awarded pursuant to the grant or contract will include—

"(i) a stipend in an amount not exceeding 50 percent of the regular salary of a similar faculty member for not to exceed 3 years of training; and

"(ii) an allowance for other expenses, such as travel to professional meetings and costs related to specialized training.

"(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under paragraph (1), an applicant shall demonstrate to the Secretary that such applicant has or will have the ability to—

"(A) identify, recruit and select underrepresented minority individuals who have the potential for teaching, administration, or conducting research at a health professions institution;

"(B) provide such individuals with the skills necessary to enable them to secure a tenured faculty position at such institution, which may include training with respect to pedagogical skills, program administration, the design and conduct of research, grants writing, and the preparation of articles suitable for publication in peer reviewed journals;

"(C) provide services designed to assist such individuals in their preparation for an academic career, including the provision of counselors; and

"(D) provide health services to rural or medically underserved populations.

"(4) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under paragraph (1) an applicant shall—

"(A) provide an assurance that such applicant will make available (directly through cash donations) $1 for every $1 of Federal funds received under this section for the fellowship;

"(B) provide an assurance that institutional support will be provided for the individual for the second and third years at a level that is equal to the total amount of institutional

funds provided in the year in which the grant or contract was awarded;

"(C) provide an assurance that the individual that will receive the fellowship will be a member of the faculty of the applicant school; and

"(D) provide an assurance that the individual that will receive the fellowship will have, at a minimum, appropriate advanced preparation (such as a master's or doctoral degree) and special skills necessary to enable such individual to teach and practice.

"(5) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'underrepresented minority individuals' means individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups that are underrepresented in the health professions including nursing.

"SEC. 739. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS REGARDING INDIVIDUALS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—

"(1) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—For the purpose of assisting individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, as determined in accordance with criteria prescribed by the Secretary, to undertake education to

enter a health profession, the Secretary may make grants to and enter into contracts with schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied health, chiropractic, and podiatric medicine, public and nonprofit private schools that offer graduate programs in behavioral and mental health, programs for the training of physician assistants, and other public or private nonprofit health or educational entities to assist in meeting the costs described in paragraph (2).

"(2) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.—A grant or contract under paragraph (1) may be used by the entity to meet the cost of—

"(A) identifying, recruiting, and selecting individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, as so determined, for education and training in a health profession;

"(B) facilitating the entry of such individuals into such a school;

"(C) providing counseling, mentoring, or other services designed to assist such individuals to complete successfully their education at such a school;

"(D) providing, for a period prior to the entry of such individuals into the regular course of education of such a school, preliminary education and health research training designed to assist them to complete successfully such regular course of education at such a school, or referring such individuals to institutions providing such preliminary education;

"(E) publicizing existing sources of financial aid available to students in the education program of such a school or who are undertaking training necessary to qualify them to enroll in such a program;

"(F) paying such scholarships as the Secretary may determine for such individuals for any period of health professions education at a health professions school;

"(G) paying such stipends as the Secretary may approve for such individuals for any period of education in student-enhancement programs (other than regular courses), except that such a stipend may not be provided to an individual for more than 12 months, and such a stipend shall be in an amount determined appropriate by the

Secretary (notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding the amount of stipends);

"(H) carrying out programs under which such individuals gain experience regarding a career in a field of primary health care through working at facilities of public or private nonprofit community-based providers of primary health services; and

"(I) conducting activities to develop a larger and more competitive applicant pool through partnerships with institutions of higher education, school districts, and other community-based entities.

"(3) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term 'regular course of education of such a school' as used in subparagraph (D) includes a graduate program in behavioral or mental health.

"(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDS.—In making awards to eligible entities under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall give preference to approved applications for programs that involve a comprehensive approach by several public or nonprofit private health or educational entities to establish, enhance and expand educational programs that will result in the development of a competitive applicant pool of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who

desire to pursue health professions careers. In considering awards for such a comprehensive partnership approach, the following shall apply with respect to the entity involved:

"(1) The entity shall have a demonstrated commitment to such approach through formal agreements that have common objectives with institutions of higher education, school districts, and other community-based entities.

"(2) Such formal agreements shall reflect the coordination of educational activities and support services, increased linkages, and the consolidation of resources within a specific geographic area.

"(3) The design of the educational activities involved shall provide for the establishment of a competitive health professions applicant pool of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds by enhancing the total preparation (academic and social) of such individuals to pursue a health professions career.

"(4) The programs or activities under the award shall focus on developing a culturally competent health care workforce that will serve the unserved and underserved populations within the geographic area.

"(c) EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall ensure that services and activities under subsection (a) are

adequately allocated among the various racial and ethnic populations who are from disadvantaged backgrounds.

"(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may require that an entity that applies for a grant or contract under subsection (a), provide non-Federal matching funds, as appropriate, to ensure the institutional commitment of the entity to the projects funded under the grant or contract. As determined by the Secretary, such non-Federal matching funds may be provided directly or through donations from public or private entities and may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

"SEC. 740. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.

"(a) SCHOLARSHIPS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 737, $37,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002. Of the amount appropriated in any fiscal year, the Secretary shall ensure that not less than 16 percent shall be distributed to schools of nursing.

"(b) LOAN REPAYMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS.—For the purpose of carrying out section 738, there is authorized to be appropriated $1,100,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

"(c) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS REGARDING INDIVIDUALS FOR DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS.—For the purpose of grants and contracts under section 739(a)(1), there is authorized to be appropriated $29,400,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002. The Secretary may use not to exceed 20 percent of the amount appropriated for a fiscal year under this subsection to provide scholarships under section 739(a)(2)(F).

"(d) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this part, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the efforts of the Secretary to address the need for a representative mix of individuals from historically minority health professions schools, or from institutions or other entities that historically or by geographic location have a demonstrated record of training or educating underrepresented minorities, within various health professions disciplines, on peer review councils.".

(b) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 795 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295n) is repealed.

(2) NONTERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The amendments made by this section shall not be con-

strued to terminate agreements that, on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, are in effect pursuant to section 795 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 795) as such section existed on such date. Such agreements shall continue in effect in accordance with the terms of the agreements. With respect to compliance with such agreements, any period of practice as a provider of primary health services shall be counted towards the satisfaction of the requirement of practice pursuant to such section 795.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 481A(c)(3)(D)(i) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 287a–2(c)(3)(D)(i)) is amended by striking "section 739" and inserting "part B of title VII".

SEC. 102. TRAINING IN PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY.

Part C of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended—

*(1) in the part heading by striking "**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**" and inserting "**FAMILY MEDICINE, GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE, GENERAL PEDIATRICS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, GENERAL DENTISTRY, AND PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**";*

(2) by repealing section 746 (42 U.S.C. 293j);

(3) in section 747 (42 U.S.C. 293k)—

(A) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

"SEC. 747. FAMILY MEDICINE, GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE, GENERAL PEDIATRICS, GENERAL DENTISTRY, PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY, AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.";

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by inserting ", internal medicine, or pediatrics" after "family medicine"; and

(II) by inserting before the semicolon the following: "that emphasizes training for the practice of family medicine, general internal medicine, or general pediatrics (as defined by the Secretary)";

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting ", general internal medicine, or general pediatrics" before the semicolon;

(iii) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by inserting "(including geriatrics), general in-

ternal medicine or general pediatrics" after "family medicine";

(iv) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" at the end thereof;

(v) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(vii) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraphs:

"(5) to meet the costs of projects to plan, develop, and operate or maintain programs for the training of physician assistants (as defined in section 799B), and for the training of individuals who will teach in programs to provide such training; and

"(6) to meet the costs of planning, developing, or operating programs, and to provide financial assistance to residents in such programs, of general dentistry or pediatric dentistry.

For purposes of paragraph (6), entities eligible for such grants or contracts shall include entities that have programs in dental schools, approved residency programs in the general or pediatric practice of dentistry, approved advanced education programs in the general or pediatric practice of dentistry, or approved residency programs in pediatric dentistry.";

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A), by inserting ", general internal medicine, or general pediatrics" after "family medicine";

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or" at the end; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) PRIORITY IN MAKING AWARDS.—In making awards of grants and contracts under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to any qualified applicant for such an award that proposes a collaborative project between departments of primary care.";

(D) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(E) by inserting after subsection (b), the following new subsection:

"(c) PRIORITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to programs for the training of interns or residents, the Secretary shall give priority in awarding grants under this section to qualified applicants that have a record of

training the greatest percentage of providers, or that have demonstrated significant improvements in the percentage of providers, which enter and remain in primary care practice or general or pediatric dentistry.

"(2) DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—With respect to programs for the training of interns, residents, or physician assistants, the Secretary shall give priority in awarding grants under this section to qualified applicants that have a record of training individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among primary care practice or general or pediatric dentistry).

"(3) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section the Secretary shall give special consideration to projects which prepare practitioners to care for underserved populations and other high risk groups such as the elderly, individuals with HIV-AIDS, substance abusers, homeless, and victims of domestic violence."; and

(F) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (D))—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking "$54,000,000" and all that follows and in-

serting "$78,300,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002."; and

(ii) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) ALLOCATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall make available—

"(i) not less than $49,300,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs of family medicine, of which not less than $8,600,000 shall be made available for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (b) for family medicine academic administrative units;

"(ii) not less than $17,700,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs of general internal medicine and general pediatrics;

"(iii) not less than $6,800,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs relating to physician assistants; and

"(iv) not less than $4,500,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs of general or pediatric dentistry.

"(B) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for any fiscal year are less than the amount required to comply with subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ratably reduce the amount to be made available under each of clauses (i) through (iv) of such subparagraph accordingly."; and

(4) by repealing sections 748 through 752 (42 U.S.C. 293l through 293p) and inserting the following:

"SEC. 748. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAINING IN PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Committee').

"(b) COMPOSITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine the appropriate number of individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee. Such individuals shall

not be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

"(2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Committee from among individuals who are health professionals. In making such appointments, the Secretary shall ensure a fair balance between the health professions, that at least 75 percent of the members of the Advisory Committee are health professionals, a broad geographic representation of members and a balance between urban and rural members. Members shall be appointed based on their competence, interest, and knowledge of the mission of the profession involved.

"(3) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—In appointing the members of the Advisory Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure the adequate representation of women and minorities.

"(c) TERMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that of the members first appointed—

"(A) ⅓ of such members shall serve for a term of 1 year;

"(B) ⅓ of such members shall serve for a term of 2 years; and

"(C) ⅓ of such members shall serve for a term of 3 years.

"(2) VACANCIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall be subject to any conditions which applied with respect to the original appointment.

"(B) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

"(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall—

"(1) provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary concerning policy and program development and other matters of significance concerning the activities under section 747; and

"(2) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Secretary, and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report describing the activities of the

Committee, including findings and recommendations made by the Committee concerning the activities under section 747.

"(e) MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS.—

"(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less than 2 times each year. Such meetings shall be held jointly with other related entities established under this title where appropriate.

"(2) DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 14 days prior to the convening of a meeting under paragraph (1), the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available an agenda of the matters to be considered by the Advisory Committee at such meeting. At any such meeting, the Advisory Council shall distribute materials with respect to the issues to be addressed at the meeting. Not later than 30 days after the adjourning of such a meeting, the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available a summary of the meeting and any actions taken by the Committee based upon the meeting.

"(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—

"(1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Advisory Committee shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule

under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Committee.

"(2) EXPENSES.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.

"(g) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall apply to the Advisory Committee under this section only to the extent that the provisions of such Act do not conflict with the requirements of this section.".

SEC. 103. INTERDISCIPLINARY, COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES.

Part D of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

"PART D—INTERDISCIPLINARY, COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES

"SEC. 750. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

"(a) COLLABORATION.—To be eligible to receive assistance under this part, an academic institution shall use such assistance in collaboration with 2 or more disciplines.

"(b) ACTIVITIES.—An entity shall use assistance under this part to carry out innovative demonstration projects for strategic workforce supplementation activities as needed to meet national goals for interdisciplinary, community-based linkages. Such assistance may be used consistent with this part—

"(1) to develop and support training programs;

"(2) for faculty development;

"(3) for model demonstration programs;

"(4) for the provision of stipends for fellowship trainees;

"(5) to provide technical assistance; and

"(6) for other activities that will produce outcomes consistent with the purposes of this part.

"SEC. 751. AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS.

"(a) AUTHORITY FOR PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

"(1) ASSISTANCE FOR PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATION OF PROGRAMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to and enter into contracts with schools of medicine and osteopathic medicine, and incorporated consortia made up of such schools, or the parent institutions of such schools, for projects for the planning, development and

operation of area health education center programs that—

"(i) improve the recruitment, distribution, supply, quality and efficiency of personnel providing health services in underserved rural and urban areas and personnel providing health services to populations having demonstrated serious unmet health care needs;

"(ii) increase the number of primary care physicians and other primary care providers who provide services in underserved areas through the offering of an educational continuum of health career recruitment through clinical education concerning underserved areas in a comprehensive health workforce strategy;

"(iii) carry out recruitment and health career awareness programs to recruit individuals from underserved areas and underrepresented populations, including minority and other elementary or secondary students, into the health professions;

"(iv) prepare individuals to more effectively provide health services to underserved

areas or underserved populations through field placements, preceptorships, the conduct of or support of community-based primary care residency programs, and agreements with community-based organizations such as community health centers, migrant health centers, Indian health centers, public health departments and others;

"(v) conduct health professions education and training activities for students of health professions schools and medical residents;

"(vi) conduct at least 10 percent of medical student required clinical education at sites remote to the primary teaching facility of the contracting institution; and

"(vii) provide information dissemination and educational support to reduce professional isolation, increase retention, enhance the practice environment, and improve health care through the timely dissemination of research findings using relevant resources.

"(B) OTHER ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—With respect to a State in which no area health edu-

cation center program is in operation, the Secretary may award a grant or contract under subparagraph (A) to a school of nursing.

"(C) PROJECT TERMS.—

"(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the period during which payments may be made under an award under subparagraph (A) may not exceed—

"(I) in the case of a project, 12 years or

"(II) in the case of a center within a project, 6 years.

"(ii) EXCEPTION.—The periods described in clause (i) shall not apply to projects that have completed the initial period of Federal funding under this section and that desire to compete for model awards under paragraph (2)(A).

"(2) ASSISTANCE FOR OPERATION OF MODEL PROGRAMS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any entity described in paragraph (1)(A) that—

"(i) has previously received funds under this section;

"(ii) is operating an area health education center program; and

"(iii) is no longer receiving financial assistance under paragraph (1);

the Secretary may provide financial assistance to such entity to pay the costs of operating and carrying out the requirements of the program as described in paragraph (1).

"(B) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—With respect to the costs of operating a model program under subparagraph (A), an entity, to be eligible for financial assistance under subparagraph (A), shall make available (directly or through contributions from State, county or municipal governments, or the private sector) recurring non-Federal contributions in cash toward such costs in an amount that is equal to not less than 50 percent of such costs.

"(C) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of awards provided under subparagraph (A) to entities in a State for a fiscal year may not exceed the lesser of—

"(i) $2,000,000; or

"(ii) an amount equal to the product of $250,000 and the aggregate number of

area health education centers operated in the State by such entities.

"(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTERS.—

"(1) GENERAL REQUIREMENT.—Each area health education center that receives funds under this section shall encourage the regionalization of health professions schools through the establishment of partnerships with community-based organizations.

"(2) SERVICE AREA.—Each area health education center that receives funds under this section shall specifically designate a geographic area or medically underserved population to be served by the center. Such area or population shall be in a location removed from the main location of the teaching facilities of the schools participating in the program with such center.

"(3) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Each area health education center that receives funds under this section shall—

"(A) assess the health personnel needs of the area to be served by the center and assist in the planning and development of training programs to meet such needs;

"(B) arrange and support rotations for students and residents in family medicine, general

internal medicine or general pediatrics, with at least one center in each program being affiliated with or conducting a rotating osteopathic internship or medical residency training program in family medicine (including geriatrics), general internal medicine (including geriatrics), or general pediatrics in which no fewer than 4 individuals are enrolled in first-year positions;

"(C) conduct and participate in interdisciplinary training that involves physicians and other health personnel including, where practicable, public health professionals, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and behavioral and mental health providers; and

"(D) have an advisory board, at least 75 percent of the members of which shall be individuals, including both health service providers and consumers, from the area served by the center.

"(c) CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING FUNDING.—

"(1) ALLOCATION TO CENTER.—Not less than 75 percent of the total amount of Federal funds provided to an entity under this section shall be allocated by an area health education center program to the area health education center. Such entity shall enter into

an agreement with each center for purposes of specifying the allocation of such 75 percent of funds.

"(2) OPERATING COSTS.—With respect to the operating costs of the area health education center program of an entity receiving funds under this section, the entity shall make available (directly or through contributions from State, county or municipal governments, or the private sector) non-Federal contributions in cash toward such costs in an amount that is equal to not less than 50 percent of such costs, except that the Secretary may grant a waiver for up to 75 percent of the amount of the required non-Federal match in the first 3 years in which an entity receives funds under this section.

"SEC. 752. HEALTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTERS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for funds under this section, a health education training center shall be an entity otherwise eligible for funds under section 751 that—

"(1) addresses the persistent and severe unmet health care needs in States along the border between the United States and Mexico and in the State of Florida, and in other urban and rural areas with populations with serious unmet health care needs;

"(2) establishes an advisory board comprised of health service providers, educators and consumers from the service area;

"(3) conducts training and education programs for health professions students in these areas;

"(4) conducts training in health education services, including training to prepare community health workers; and

"(5) supports health professionals (including nursing) practicing in the area through educational and other services.

"(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall make available 50 percent of the amounts appropriated for each fiscal year under section 752 for the establishment or operation of health education training centers through projects in States along the border between the United States and Mexico and in the State of Florida.

"SEC. 753. EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATING TO GERIATRICS.

"(a) GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTERS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants or contracts under this section to entities described in paragraphs (1), (3), or (4) of section 799B, and section 853(2), for the establishment or operation of geriatric education centers.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A geriatric education center is a program that—

"(A) improves the training of health professionals in geriatrics, including geriatric residencies, traineeships, or fellowships;

"(B) develops and disseminates curricula relating to the treatment of the health problems of elderly individuals;

"(C) supports the training and retraining of faculty to provide instruction in geriatrics;

"(D) supports continuing education of health professionals who provide geriatric care; and

"(E) provides students with clinical training in geriatrics in nursing homes, chronic and acute disease hospitals, ambulatory care centers, and senior centers.

"(b) GERIATRIC TRAINING REGARDING PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to, and enter into contracts with, schools of medicine, schools of osteopathic medicine, teaching hospitals, and graduate medical education programs, for the purpose of providing support (including residencies, traineeships, and fellowships) for geriatric

training projects to train physicians, dentists and behavioral and mental health professionals who plan to teach geriatric medicine, geriatric behavioral or mental health, or geriatric dentistry.

"(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each project for which a grant or contract is made under this subsection shall—

"(A) be staffed by full-time teaching physicians who have experience or training in geriatric medicine or geriatric behavioral or mental health;

"(B) be staffed, or enter into an agreement with an institution staffed by full-time or part-time teaching dentists who have experience or training in geriatric dentistry;

"(C) be staffed, or enter into an agreement with an institution staffed by full-time or part-time teaching behavioral mental health professionals who have experience or training in geriatric behavioral or mental health;

"(D) be based in a graduate medical education program in internal medicine or family medicine or in a department of geriatrics or behavioral or mental health;

"(E) provide training in geriatrics and exposure to the physical and mental disabilities of elderly individuals through a variety of service rotations, such as geriatric consultation services, acute care services, dental services, geriatric behavioral or mental health units, day and home care programs, rehabilitation services, extended care facilities, geriatric ambulatory care and comprehensive evaluation units, and community care programs for elderly mentally retarded individuals; and

"(F) provide training in geriatrics through one or both of the training options described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3).

"(3) TRAINING OPTIONS.—The training options referred to in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (2) shall be as follows:

"(A) A 1-year retraining program in geriatrics for—

"(i) physicians who are faculty members in departments of internal medicine, family medicine, gynecology, geriatrics, and behavioral or mental health at schools of medicine and osteopathic medicine;

"(ii) dentists who are faculty members at schools of dentistry or at hospital departments of dentistry; and

"(iii) behavioral or mental health professionals who are faculty members in departments of behavioral or mental health; and

"(B) A 2-year internal medicine or family medicine fellowship program providing emphasis in geriatrics, which shall be designed to provide training in clinical geriatrics and geriatrics research for—

"(i) physicians who have completed graduate medical education programs in internal medicine, family medicine, behavioral or mental health, neurology, gynecology, or rehabilitation medicine;

"(ii) dentists who have demonstrated a commitment to an academic career and who have completed postdoctoral dental training, including postdoctoral dental education programs or who have relevant advanced training or experience; and

"(iii) behavioral or mental health professionals who have completed graduate

medical education programs in behavioral or mental health.

"(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

"(A) The term 'graduate medical education program' means a program sponsored by a school of medicine, a school of osteopathic medicine, a hospital, or a public or private institution that—

"(i) offers postgraduate medical training in the specialties and subspecialties of medicine; and

"(ii) has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association through its Committee on Postdoctoral Training.

"(B) The term 'post-doctoral dental education program' means a program sponsored by a school of dentistry, a hospital, or a public or private institution that—

"(i) offers post-doctoral training in the specialties of dentistry, advanced education in general dentistry, or a dental general practice residency; and

"(ii) has been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

"(c) GERIATRIC FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS.—

"(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program to provide Geriatric Academic Career Awards to eligible individuals to promote the career development of such individuals as academic geriatricians.

"(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—To be eligible to receive an Award under paragraph (1), an individual shall—

"(A) be board certified or board eligible in internal medicine, family practice, or psychiatry;

"(B) have completed an approved fellowship program in geriatrics; and

"(C) have a junior faculty appointment at an accredited (as determined by the Secretary) school of medicine or osteopathic medicine.

"(3) LIMITATIONS.—No Award under paragraph (1) may be made to an eligible individual unless the individual—

"(A) has submitted to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary

may require, and the Secretary has approved such application; and

"(B) provides, in such form and manner as the Secretary may require, assurances that the individual will meet the service requirement described in subsection (e).

"(4) AMOUNT AND TERM.—

"(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of an Award under this section shall equal $50,000 for fiscal year 1998, adjusted for subsequent fiscal years to reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

"(B) TERM.—The term of any Award made under this subsection shall not exceed 5 years.

"(5) SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—An individual who receives an Award under this subsection shall provide training in clinical geriatrics, including the training of interdisciplinary teams of health care professionals. The provision of such training shall constitute at least 75 percent of the obligations of such individual under the Award.

"SEC. 754. RURAL INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAINING GRANTS.

"(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make grants or contracts under this section to help entities fund authorized activities under an application approved under subsection (c).

"(b) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided under subsection (a) shall be used by the recipients to fund interdisciplinary training projects designed to—

"(A) use new and innovative methods to train health care practitioners to provide services in rural areas;

"(B) demonstrate and evaluate innovative interdisciplinary methods and models designed to provide access to cost-effective comprehensive health care;

"(C) deliver health care services to individuals residing in rural areas;

"(D) enhance the amount of relevant research conducted concerning health care issues in rural areas; and

"(E) increase the recruitment and retention of health care practitioners from rural areas and make rural practice a more attractive career choice for health care practitioners.

"(2) METHODS.—A recipient of funds under subsection (a) may use various methods in carrying out the projects described in paragraph (1), including—

"(A) the distribution of stipends to students of eligible applicants;

"(B) the establishment of a post-doctoral fellowship program;

"(C) the training of faculty in the economic and logistical problems confronting rural health care delivery systems; or

"(D) the purchase or rental of transportation and telecommunication equipment where the need for such equipment due to unique characteristics of the rural area is demonstrated by the recipient.

"(3) ADMINISTRATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant shall not use more than 10 percent of the funds made available to such applicant under subsection (a) for administrative expenses.

"(B) TRAINING.—Not more than 10 percent of the individuals receiving training with funds made available to an applicant under subsection (a) shall be trained as doctors of medicine or doctors of osteopathy.

"(C) LIMITATION.—An institution that receives a grant under this section shall use amounts received under such grant to supplement, not supplant, amounts made available by such institution for activities of the type de-

scribed in subsection (b)(1) in the fiscal year preceding the year for which the grant is received.

"(c) APPLICATIONS.—Applications submitted for assistance under this section shall—

"(1) be jointly submitted by at least two eligible applicants with the express purpose of assisting individuals in academic institutions in establishing long-term collaborative relationships with health care providers in rural areas; and

"(2) designate a rural health care agency or agencies for clinical treatment or training, including hospitals, community health centers, migrant health centers, rural health clinics, community behavioral and mental health centers, long-term care facilities, Native Hawaiian health centers, or facilities operated by the Indian Health Service or an Indian tribe or tribal organization or Indian organization under a contract with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination Act.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'rural' means geographic areas that are located outside of standard metropolitan statistical areas.

"SEC. 755. ALLIED HEALTH AND OTHER DISCIPLINES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants or contracts under this section to help entities fund activities of the type described in subsection (b).

"(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities of the type described in this subsection include the following:

"(1) Assisting entities in meeting the costs associated with expanding or establishing programs that will increase the number of individuals trained in allied health professions. Programs and activities funded under this paragraph may include—

"(A) those that expand enrollments in allied health professions with the greatest shortages or whose services are most needed by the elderly;

"(B) those that provide rapid transition training programs in allied health fields to individuals who have baccalaureate degrees in health-related sciences;

"(C) those that establish community-based allied health training programs that link academic centers to rural clinical settings;

"(D) those that provide career advancement training for practicing allied health professionals;

"(E) those that expand or establish clinical training sites for allied health professionals in

medically underserved or rural communities in order to increase the number of individuals trained;

"(F) those that develop curriculum that will emphasize knowledge and practice in the areas of prevention and health promotion, geriatrics, long-term care, home health and hospice care, and ethics;

"(G) those that expand or establish interdisciplinary training programs that promote the effectiveness of allied health practitioners in geriatric assessment and the rehabilitation of the elderly;

"(H) those that expand or establish demonstration centers to emphasize innovative models to link allied health clinical practice, education, and research;

"(I) those that provide financial assistance (in the form of traineeships) to students who are participants in any such program; and

"(i) who plan to pursue a career in an allied health field that has a demonstrated personnel shortage; and

"(ii) who agree upon completion of the training program to practice in a medically underserved community;

that shall be utilized to assist in the payment of all or part of the costs associated with tuition, fees and such other stipends as the Secretary may consider necessary; and

"(J) those to meet the costs of projects to plan, develop, and operate or maintain graduate programs in behavioral and mental health practice.

"(2) Planning and implementing projects in preventive and primary care training for podiatric physicians in approved or provisionally approved residency programs that shall provide financial assistance in the form of traineeships to residents who participate in such projects and who plan to specialize in primary care.

"(3) Carrying out demonstration projects in which chiropractors and physicians collaborate to identify and provide effective treatment for spinal and lower-back conditions.

"SEC. 756. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERDISCIPLINARY, COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Committee').

"(b) COMPOSITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine the appropriate number of individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee. Such individuals shall not be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

"(2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Committee from among individuals who are health professionals from schools of the types described in sections 751(a)(1)(A), 751(a)(1)(B), 753(b), 754(3)(A), and 755(b). In making such appointments, the Secretary shall ensure a fair balance between the health professions, that at least 75 percent of the members of the Advisory Committee are health professionals, a broad geographic representation of members and a balance between urban and rural members. Members shall be appointed based on their competence, interest, and knowledge of the mission of the profession involved.

"(3) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—In appointing the members of the Advisory Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure the adequate representation of women and minorities.

"(c) TERMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that of the members first appointed—

"(A) ⅓ of the members shall serve for a term of 1 year;

"(B) ⅓ of the members shall serve for a term of 2 years; and

"(C) ⅓ of the members shall serve for a term of 3 years.

"(2) VACANCIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall be subject to any conditions which applied with respect to the original appointment.

"(B) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

"(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall—

"(1) provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary concerning policy and program development and other matters of significance concerning the activities under this part; and

"(2) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Secretary, and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report describing the activities of the Committee, including findings and recommendations made by the Committee concerning the activities under this part.

"(e) MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS.—

"(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less than 3 times each year. Such meetings shall be held jointly with other related entities established under this title where appropriate.

"(2) DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 14 days prior to the convening of a meeting under paragraph (1), the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available an agenda of the matters to be considered by the Advisory Committee at such meeting. At any such meeting, the Advisory Council shall distribute materials with respect to the issues to be addressed at the

meeting. Not later than 30 days after the adjourning of such a meeting, the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available a summary of the meeting and any actions taken by the Committee based upon the meeting.

"(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—

"(1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Advisory Committee shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Committee.

"(2) EXPENSES.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.

"(g) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall apply to the Advisory Committee under this section only to the extent that the provisions of such Act do not conflict with the requirements of this section.

"SEC. 757. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part, $55,600,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

"(b) ALLOCATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall make available—

"(A) not less than $28,587,000 for awards of grants and contracts under section 751;

"(B) not less than $3,765,000 for awards of grants and contracts under section 752, of which not less than 50 percent of such amount shall be made available for centers described in subsection (a)(1) of such section; and

"(C) not less than $22,631,000 for awards of grants and contracts under sections 753, 754, and 755.

"(2) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for any fiscal year are less than the amount required to comply with paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ratably reduce the amount to be made available under each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of such paragraph accordingly.

"(3) INCREASE IN AMOUNTS.—If amounts appropriated for a fiscal year under subsection (a) exceed the amount authorized under such subsection for such fiscal year, the Secretary may increase the amount to be made available for programs and activities under this part without regard to the amounts specified in each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (2).

"(c) OBLIGATION OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—

"(1) AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER PROGRAMS.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (b)(1)(A) for each fiscal year, the Secretary may obligate for awards under section 751(a)(2)—

"(A) not less than 23 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 1998;

"(B) not less than 30 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 1999;

"(C) not less than 35 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 2000;

"(D) not less than 40 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 2001; and

"(E) not less than 45 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 2002.

"(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

"(A) every State have an area health education center program in effect under this section; and

"(B) the ratio of Federal funding for the model program under section 751(a)(2) should increase over time and that Federal funding for other awards under this section shall decrease so that the national program will become entirely comprised of programs that are funded at least 50 percent by State and local partners.".

SEC. 104. HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

"PART E—HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

"Subpart 1—Health Professions Workforce Information and Analysis

"SEC. 761. HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS.

"(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to—

"(1) provide for the development of information describing the health professions workforce and the analysis of workforce related issues; and

"(2) provide necessary information for decision-making regarding future directions in health professions and nursing programs in response to societal and professional needs.

"(b) GRANTS OR CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may award grants or contracts to State or local governments, health professions schools, schools of nursing, academic health centers, community-based health facilities, and other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities to provide for—

"(1) targeted information collection and analysis activities related to the purposes described in subsection (a);

"(2) research on high priority workforce questions;

"(3) the development of a non-Federal analytic and research infrastructure related to the purposes described in subsection (a); and

"(4) the conduct of program evaluation and assessment.

"(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, $750,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

"(2) RESERVATION.—Of the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not less than $600,000 for conducting health professions research and for carrying out data collection and analysis in accordance with section 792.

"(3) AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Amounts otherwise appropriated for programs or activities under this title may be used for activities under subsection (b) with respect to the programs or activities from which such amounts were made available.".

(b) COUNCIL ON GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.—Section 301 of the Health Professions Education Extension Amendments of 1992 (Public Law 102–408) is amended—

(1) in subsection (j), by striking "1995" and inserting "2002";

(2) in subsection (k), by striking "1995" and inserting "2002";

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(l) FUNDING.—Amounts otherwise appropriated under this title may be utilized by the Secretary to support the activities of the Council.";

(4) by transferring such section to part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by subsection (a));

(5) by redesignating such section as section 762; and

(6) by inserting such section after section 761.

SEC. 105. PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 104) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

"Subpart 2—Public Health Workforce

"SEC. 765. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants or contracts to eligible entities to increase the number of individuals in the public health workforce, to enhance the quality of such workforce, and to enhance the ability of the workforce to meet national, State, and local health care needs.

"(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under subsection (a) an entity shall—

"(1) be—

"(A) a health professions school, including an accredited school or program of public health, health administration, preventive medicine, or

dental public health or a school providing health management programs;

"(B) an academic health center;

"(C) a State or local government; or

"(D) any other appropriate public or private nonprofit entity; and

"(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

"(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants or contracts under this section the Secretary may grant a preference to entities—

"(1) serving individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (including underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities); and

"(2) graduating large proportions of individuals who serve in underserved communities.

"(d) ACTIVITIES.—Amounts provided under a grant or contract awarded under this section may be used for—

"(1) the costs of planning, developing, or operating demonstration training programs;

"(2) faculty development;

"(3) trainee support;

"(4) technical assistance;

"(5) to meet the costs of projects—

"(A) to plan and develop new residency training programs and to maintain or improve existing residency training programs in preventive medicine and dental public health, that have available full-time faculty members with training and experience in the fields of preventive medicine and dental public health; and

"(B) to provide financial assistance to residency trainees enrolled in such programs;

"(6) the retraining of existing public health workers as well as for increasing the supply of new practitioners to address priority public health, preventive medicine, public health dentistry, and health administration needs;

"(7) preparing public health professionals for employment at the State and community levels; or

"(8) other activities that may produce outcomes that are consistent with the purposes of this section

"(e) TRAINEESHIPS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to amounts used under this section for the training of health professionals, such training programs shall be designed to—

"(A) make public health education more accessible to the public and private health workforce;

"(B) increase the relevance of public health academic preparation to public health practice in the future;

"(C) provide education or training for students from traditional on-campus programs in practice-based sites; or

"(D) develop educational methods and distance-based approaches or technology that address adult learning requirements and increase knowledge and skills related to community-based cultural diversity in public health education.

"(2) SEVERE SHORTAGE DISCIPLINES.—Amounts provided under grants or contracts under this section may be used for the operation of programs designed to award traineeships to students in accredited schools of public health who enter educational programs in fields where there is a severe shortage of public health professionals, including epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, toxicology, public health nursing, nutrition, preventive medicine, maternal and child health, and behavioral and mental health professions.

"SEC. 766. PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTERS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants or contracts for the operation of public health training centers.

"(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A public health training center shall be an accredited school of public health, or another public or nonprofit private institution accredited for the provision of graduate or specialized training in public health, that plans, develops, operates, and evaluates projects that are in furtherance of the goals established by the Secretary for the year 2000 in the areas of preventive medicine, health promotion and disease prevention, or improving access to and quality of health services in medically underserved communities.

"(2) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants or contracts under this section the Secretary shall give preference to accredited schools of public health.

"(c) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to a public health training center, an award may not be made under subsection (a) unless the program agrees that it—

"(1) will establish or strengthen field placements for students in public or nonprofit private health agencies or organizations;

"(2) will involve faculty members and students in collaborative projects to enhance public health services to medically underserved communities;

"(3) will specifically designate a geographic area or medically underserved population to be served by the center that shall be in a location removed from the main location of the teaching facility of the school that is participating in the program with such center; and

"(4) will assess the health personnel needs of the area to be served by the center and assist in the planning and development of training programs to meet such needs.

"SEC. 767. PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINEESHIPS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to accredited schools of public health, and to other public or nonprofit private institutions accredited for the provision of graduate or specialized training in public health, for the purpose of assisting such schools and institutions in providing traineeships to individuals described in subsection (b)(3).

"(b) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of any grant under this section shall be determined by the Secretary.

"(2) USE OF GRANT.—Traineeships awarded under grants made under subsection (a) shall provide for tuition and fees and such stipends and allowances (including travel and subsistence expenses and dependency allowances) for the trainees as the Secretary may deem necessary.

"(3) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The individuals referred to in subsection (a) are individuals who are pursuing a course of study in a health professions field in which there is a severe shortage of health professionals (which fields include the fields of epidemiology, environmental health, biostatistics, toxicology, nutrition, and maternal and child health).

"SEC. 768. PREVENTIVE MEDICINE; DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to and enter into contracts with schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, and dentistry to meet the costs of projects—

"(1) to plan and develop new residency training programs and to maintain or improve existing residency training programs in preventive medicine and dental public health; and

"(2) to provide financial assistance to residency trainees enrolled in such programs.

"(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

"(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of any grant under subsection (a) shall be determined by the Secretary.

"(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under subsection (a), the applicant must demonstrate to the Secretary that it has or will have available full-time faculty members with training and experience in the fields of preventive medicine or dental public health and support from other faculty members trained in public health and other relevant specialties and disciplines.

"(3) OTHER FUNDS.—Schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, and public health may use funds committed by State, local, or county public health officers as matching amounts for Federal grant funds for residency training programs in preventive medicine.

"SEC. 769. HEALTH ADMINISTRATION TRAINEESHIPS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to State or local governments (that have in effect preventive medical and dental public health residency programs) or public or nonprofit private educational entities (including graduate schools of social work and business schools that

have health management programs) that offer a program described in subsection (b)—

"(1) to provide traineeships for students enrolled in such a program; and

"(2) to assist accredited programs health administration in the development or improvement of programs to prepare students for employment with public or nonprofit private entities.

"(b) RELEVANT PROGRAMS.—The program referred to in subsection (a) is an accredited program in health administration, hospital administration, or health policy analysis and planning, which program is accredited by a body or bodies approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education and which meets such other quality standards as the Secretary of Health and Human Services by regulation may prescribe.

"(c) PREFERENCE IN MAKING GRANTS.—In making grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give preference to qualified applicants that meet the following conditions:

"(1) Not less than 25 percent of the graduates of the applicant are engaged in full-time practice settings in medically underserved communities.

"(2) The applicant recruits and admits students from medically underserved communities.

"(3) For the purpose of training students, the applicant has established relationships with public and nonprofit providers of health care in the community involved.

"(4) In training students, the applicant emphasizes employment with public or nonprofit private entities.

"(d) CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING TRAINEESHIPS.—

"(1) USE OF GRANT.—Traineeships awarded under grants made under subsection (a) shall provide for tuition and fees and such stipends and allowances (including travel and subsistence expenses and dependency allowances) for the trainees as the Secretary may deem necessary.

"(2) PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.—Each entity applying for a grant under subsection (a) for traineeships shall assure to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the entity will give priority to awarding the traineeships to students who demonstrate a commitment to employment with public or nonprofit private entities in the fields with respect to which the traineeships are awarded.

"SEC. 770. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out this subpart, there is authorized to be appropriated $9,100,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

"(b) LIMITATION REGARDING CERTAIN PROGRAM.—In obligating amounts appropriated under subsection (a), the Secretary may not obligate more than 30 percent for carrying out section 767.".

SEC. 106. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Part F of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295 et seq.) is repealed.

(2) Part G of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295j et seq.) is amended—

(A) by redesignating such part as part F;

(B) in section 791 (42 U.S.C. 295j)—

(i) by striking subsection (b); and

(ii) redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(C) by repealing section 793 (42 U.S.C. 295l);

(D) by repealing section 798;

(E) by redesignating section 799 as section 799B; and

(F) by inserting after section 794, the following new sections:

"SEC. 796. APPLICATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under this title, an eligible entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application that meets the requirements of this section, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

"(b) PLAN.—An application submitted under this section shall contain the plan of the applicant for carrying out a project with amounts received under this title. Such plan shall be consistent with relevant Federal, State, or regional health professions program plans.

"(c) PERFORMANCE OUTCOME STANDARDS.—An application submitted under this section shall contain a specification by the applicant entity of performance outcome standards that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will be measured against. Such standards shall address relevant health workforce needs that the project will meet. The recipient of a grant or contract under this section shall meet the standards set forth in the grant or contract application.

"(d) LINKAGES.—An application submitted under this section shall contain a description of the linkages with rel-

evant educational and health care entities, including training programs for other health professionals as appropriate, that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will establish. To the extent practicable, grantees under this section shall establish linkages with health care providers who provide care for underserved communities and populations.

"SEC. 797. USE OF FUNDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided under a grant or contract awarded under this title may be used for training program development and support, faculty development, model demonstrations, trainee support including tuition, books, program fees and reasonable living expenses during the period of training, technical assistance, workforce analysis, dissemination of information, and exploring new policy directions, as appropriate to meet recognized health workforce objectives, in accordance with this title.

"(b) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—With respect to activities for which a grant awarded under this title is to be expended, the entity shall agree to maintain expenditures of non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the entity for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the entity receives such a grant.

"SEC. 798. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

"The Secretary may require that an entity that applies for a grant or contract under this title provide non-Federal matching funds, as appropriate, to ensure the institutional commitment of the entity to the projects funded under the grant. As determined by the Secretary, such non-Federal matching funds may be provided directly or through donations from public or private entities and may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

"SEC. 799. GENERALLY APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.

"(a) AWARDING OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that grants and contracts under this title are awarded on a competitive basis, as appropriate, to carry out innovative demonstration projects or provide for strategic workforce supplementation activities as needed to meet health workforce goals and in accordance with this title. Contracts may be entered into under this title with public or private entities as may be necessary.

"(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Unless specifically required otherwise in this title, the Secretary shall accept applications for grants or contracts under this title from health professions schools, academic health centers, State or local governments, or other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities for funding and participation in health professions and nursing training activities. The Secretary

may accept applications from for-profit private entities if determined appropriate by the Secretary.

"(c) INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Recipients of grants and contracts under this title shall meet information requirements as specified by the Secretary.

"(2) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure that, with respect to any data collection required under this title, such data is collected in a manner that takes into account age, sex, race, and ethnicity.

"(3) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to permit the use of amounts appropriated under this title to be used for data collection purposes.

"(4) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure the annual evaluation of programs and projects operated by recipients of grants or contracts under this title. Such procedures shall ensure that continued funding for such programs and projects will be conditioned upon a demonstration that satisfactory progress has been made by the program or project in meeting the objectives of the program or project.

"(d) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Training programs conducted with amounts received under this title shall meet applicable accreditation and quality standards.

"(e) DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, the period during which payments are made to the entity under the award may not exceed 5 years. The provision of payments under the award shall be subject to annual approval by the Secretary of the payments and subject to the availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to make the payments. This paragraph may not be construed as limiting the number of awards under the program involved that may be made to the entity.

"(2) LIMITATION.—In the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, paragraph (1) shall apply only to the extent not inconsistent with any other provision of this title that relates to the period during which payments may be made under the award.

"(f) PEER REVIEW REGARDING CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each application for a grant under this title, except any scholarship or loan program, including those under sections 701, 721, or 723, shall be submitted to a peer review group for an evaluation of the merits of the proposals made in the application. The Secretary may not approve such an application unless a peer review group has recommended the application for approval.

"(2) COMPOSITION.—Each peer review group under this subsection shall be composed principally of individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government. In providing for the establishment of peer review groups and procedures, the Secretary shall ensure sex, racial, ethnic, and geographic balance among the membership of such groups.

"(3) ADMINISTRATION.—This subsection shall be carried out by the Secretary acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

"(g) PREFERENCE OR PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS.—In considering a preference or priority for funding which is based on outcome measures for an eligible entity under this title, the Secretary may also consider the future ability of the eligible entity to meet the outcome preference or prior-

ity through improvements in the eligible entity's program design.

"(h) ANALYTIC ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that—

"(1) cross-cutting workforce analytical activities are carried out as part of the workforce information and analysis activities under section 761; and

"(2) discipline-specific workforce information and analytical activities are carried out as part of—

"(A) the community-based linkage program under part D; and

"(B) the health workforce development program under subpart 2 of part E.

"(i) OSTEOPATHIC SCHOOLS.—For purposes of this title, any reference to—

"(1) medical schools shall include osteopathic medical schools; and

"(2) medical students shall include osteopathic medical students.

"SEC. 799A. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

"Funds appropriated under this title may be used by the Secretary to provide technical assistance in relation to any of the authorities under this title.".

(b) PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AS MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—Section 792(a) of the Public Health

Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295k(a)) is amended by inserting "professional counselors," after "clinical psychologists,".

SEC. 107. PREFERENCE IN CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 791 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295j), as amended by section 105(a)(2)(B), is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following subsection:

"(c) EXCEPTIONS FOR NEW PROGRAMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—To permit new programs to compete equitably for funding under this section, those new programs that meet at least 4 of the criteria described in paragraph (3) shall qualify for a funding preference under this section.

"(2) DEFINITION.—As used in this subsection, the term 'new program' means any program that has graduated less than three classes. Upon graduating at least three classes, a program shall have the capability to provide the information necessary to qualify the program for the general funding preferences described in subsection (a).

"(3) CRITERIA.—The criteria referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

"(A) The mission statement of the program identifies a specific purpose of the program as

being the preparation of health professionals to serve underserved populations.

"(B) The curriculum of the program includes content which will help to prepare practitioners to serve underserved populations.

"(C) Substantial clinical training experience is required under the program in medically underserved communities.

"(D) A minimum of 20 percent of the clinical faculty of the program spend at least 50 percent of their time providing or supervising care in medically underserved communities.

"(E) The entire program or a substantial portion of the program is physically located in a medically underserved community.

"(F) Student assistance, which is linked to service in medically underserved communities following graduation, is available to the students in the program.

"(G) The program provides a placement mechanism for deploying graduates to medically underserved communities.".

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 791(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295j(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "sections 747" and all that follows through "767" and inserting "sections 747 and 750"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "under section 798(a)".

SEC. 108. DEFINITIONS.

(a) GRADUATE PROGRAM IN BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE.—Section 799B(1)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p(1)(D)) (as so redesignated by section 106(a)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) by inserting "behavioral health and" before "mental"; and

(2) by inserting "behavioral health and mental health practice," before "clinical".

(b) PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AS A BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE.—Section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) (as so redesignated by section 106(a)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by inserting "and 'graduate program in professional counseling'" after "graduate program in marriage and family therapy'"; and

(ii) by inserting before the period the following: "and a concentration leading to a graduate degree in counseling";

(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting "professional counseling," after "social work,"; and

(C) in subparagraph (E), by inserting "professional counseling," after "social work,"; and

(2) in paragraph (5)(C), by inserting before the period the following: "or a degree in counseling or an equivalent degree".

(c) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—Section 799B(6) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p(6)) (as so redesignated by section 105(a)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking "or" at the end thereof;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(D) is designated by a State Governor (in consultation with the medical community) as a shortage area or medically underserved community.".

(d) PROGRAMS FOR THE TRAINING OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.—Paragraph (3) of section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) (as so redesignated by section 105(a)(2)(E)) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) The term 'program for the training of physician assistants' means an educational program that—

"(A) has as its objective the education of individuals who will, upon completion of their studies in the program, be qualified to provide primary care under the supervision of a physician;

"(B) extends for at least one academic year and consists of—

"(i) supervised clinical practice; and

"(ii) at least four months (in the aggregate) of classroom instruction, directed toward preparing students to deliver health care;

"(C) has an enrollment of not less than eight students; and

"(D) trains students in primary care, disease prevention, health promotion, geriatric medicine, and home health care.".

(e) PSYCHOLOGIST.—Section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) (as so redesignated by section 105(a)(2)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(11) The term 'psychologist' means an individual who—

"(A) holds a doctoral degree in psychology; and

"(B) is licensed or certified on the basis of the doctoral degree in psychology, by the State in which the individual practices, at the independent practice level of psychology to furnish diagnostic, assessment, preventive, and therapeutic services directly to individuals.".

SEC. 109. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.

Section 338B(b)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1(b)(1)(B)) is amended by striking "or other health profession" and inserting "behavioral and mental health, or other health profession".

SEC. 110. SAVINGS PROVISION.

In the case of any authority for making awards of grants or contracts that is terminated by the amendments made by this subtitle, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may, notwithstanding the termination of the au-

thority, continue in effect any grant or contract made under the authority that is in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the duration of any such grant or contract not exceeding the period determined by the Secretary in first approving such financial assistance, or in approving the most recent request made (before the date of such enactment) for continuation of such assistance, as the case may be.

Subtitle B—Nursing Workforce Development

SEC. 121. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Nursing Education and Practice Improvement Act of 1998".

SEC. 122. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this title to restructure the nurse education authorities of title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to permit a comprehensive, flexible, and effective approach to Federal support for nursing workforce development.

SEC. 123. AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296k et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the title heading and all that follows except for subpart II of part B and sections 846 and 855; and inserting the following:

"TITLE VIII—NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT";

(2) in subpart II of part B, by striking the subpart heading and inserting the following:

"PART E—STUDENT LOANS";

(3) by striking section 837;

(4) by inserting after the title heading the following new parts:

"PART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

"SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS.

"As used in this title:

"(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term 'eligible entities' means schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, State or local governments, and other public or private nonprofit entities determined appropriate by the Secretary that submit to the Secretary an application in accordance with section 802.

"(2) SCHOOL OF NURSING.—The term 'school of nursing' means a collegiate, associate degree, or diploma school of nursing in a State.

"(3) COLLEGIATE SCHOOL OF NURSING.—The term 'collegiate school of nursing' means a department, division, or other administrative unit in a college or university which provides primarily or exclusively a program of education in professional nursing

and related subjects leading to the degree of bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, bachelor of nursing, or to an equivalent degree, or to a graduate degree in nursing, or to an equivalent degree, and including advanced training related to such program of education provided by such school, but only if such program, or such unit, college or university is accredited.

"(4) ASSOCIATE DEGREE SCHOOL OF NURSING.—The term 'associate degree school of nursing' means a department, division, or other administrative unit in a junior college, community college, college, or university which provides primarily or exclusively a two-year program of education in professional nursing and allied subjects leading to an associate degree in nursing or to an equivalent degree, but only if such program, or such unit, college, or university is accredited.

"(5) DIPLOMA SCHOOL OF NURSING.—The term 'diploma school of nursing' means a school affiliated with a hospital or university, or an independent school, which provides primarily or exclusively a program of education in professional nursing and allied subjects leading to a diploma or to equivalent indicia that such program has been satisfactorily completed, but only if such program, or such affiliated school or

such hospital or university or such independent school is accredited.

"(6) ACCREDITED.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'accredited' when applied to any program of nurse education means a program accredited by a recognized body or bodies, or by a State agency, approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education and when applied to a hospital, school, college, or university (or a unit thereof) means a hospital, school, college, or university (or a unit thereof) which is accredited by a recognized body or bodies, or by a State agency, approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education. For the purpose of this paragraph, the Secretary of Education shall publish a list of recognized accrediting bodies, and of State agencies, which the Secretary of Education determines to be reliable authority as to the quality of education offered.

"(B) NEW PROGRAMS.—A new program of nursing that, by reason of an insufficient period of operation, is not, at the time of the submission of an application for a grant or contract under this title, eligible for accreditation by such a rec-

ognized body or bodies or State agency, shall be deemed accredited for purposes of this title if the Secretary of Education finds, after consultation with the appropriate accreditation body or bodies, that there is reasonable assurance that the program will meet the accreditation standards of such body or bodies prior to the beginning of the academic year following the normal graduation date of students of the first entering class in such a program.

"(7) NONPROFIT.—The term 'nonprofit' as applied to any school, agency, organization, or institution means one which is a corporation or association, or is owned and operated by one or more corporations or associations, no part of the net earnings of which inures, or may lawfully inure, to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

"(8) STATE.—The term 'State' means a State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

"SEC. 802. APPLICATION.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under this title, an eligible entity shall prepare

and submit to the Secretary an application that meets the requirements of this section, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

"(b) PLAN.—An application submitted under this section shall contain the plan of the applicant for carrying out a project with amounts received under this title. Such plan shall be consistent with relevant Federal, State, or regional program plans.

"(c) PERFORMANCE OUTCOME STANDARDS.—An application submitted under this section shall contain a specification by the applicant entity of performance outcome standards that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will be measured against. Such standards shall address relevant national nursing needs that the project will meet. The recipient of a grant or contract under this section shall meet the standards set forth in the grant or contract application.

"(d) LINKAGES.—An application submitted under this section shall contain a description of the linkages with relevant educational and health care entities, including training programs for other health professionals as appropriate, that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will establish.

"SEC. 803. USE OF FUNDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided under a grant or contract awarded under this title may be used for training program development and support, faculty development, model demonstrations, trainee support including tuition, books, program fees and reasonable living expenses during the period of training, technical assistance, workforce analysis, and dissemination of information, as appropriate to meet recognized nursing objectives, in accordance with this title.

"(b) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—With respect to activities for which a grant awarded under this title is to be expended, the entity shall agree to maintain expenditures of non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the entity for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the entity receives such a grant.

"SEC. 804. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

"The Secretary may require that an entity that applies for a grant or contract under this title provide non-Federal matching funds, as appropriate, to ensure the institutional commitment of the entity to the projects funded under the grant. Such non-Federal matching funds may be provided directly or through donations from public or private entities and may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

"SEC. 805. PREFERENCE.

"In awarding grants or contracts under this title, the Secretary shall give preference to applicants with projects that will substantially benefit rural or underserved populations, or help meet public health nursing needs in State or local health departments.

"SEC. 806. GENERALLY APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.

"(a) AWARDING OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that grants and contracts under this title are awarded on a competitive basis, as appropriate, to carry out innovative demonstration projects or provide for strategic workforce supplementation activities as needed to meet national nursing service goals and in accordance with this title. Contracts may be entered into under this title with public or private entities as determined necessary by the Secretary.

"(b) INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Recipients of grants and contracts under this title shall meet information requirements as specified by the Secretary.

"(2) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure the annual evaluation of programs and projects operated by recipients of grants under this title. Such procedures shall ensure that continued funding for such programs and projects will be conditioned upon a demonstration

that satisfactory progress has been made by the program or project in meeting the objectives of the program or project.

"(c) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Training programs conducted with amounts received under this title shall meet applicable accreditation and quality standards.

"(d) DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, the period during which payments are made to the entity under the award may not exceed 5 years. The provision of payments under the award shall be subject to annual approval by the Secretary of the payments and subject to the availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to make the payments. This paragraph may not be construed as limiting the number of awards under the program involved that may be made to the entity.

"(2) LIMITATION.—In the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, paragraph (1) shall apply only to the extent not inconsistent with any other provision of this title that relates to the period during which payments may be made under the award.

"(e) PEER REVIEW REGARDING CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Each application for a grant under this title, except advanced nurse traineeship grants under section 811(a)(2), shall be submitted to a peer review group for an evaluation of the merits of the proposals made in the application. The Secretary may not approve such an application unless a peer review group has recommended the application for approval.

"(2) COMPOSITION.—Each peer review group under this subsection shall be composed principally of individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government. In providing for the establishment of peer review groups and procedures, the Secretary shall, except as otherwise provided, ensure sex, racial, ethnic, and geographic representation among the membership of such groups.

"(3) ADMINISTRATION.—This subsection shall be carried out by the Secretary acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

"(f) ANALYTIC ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that—

"(1) cross-cutting workforce analytical activities are carried out as part of the workforce information and analysis activities under this title; and

"(2) discipline-specific workforce information is developed and analytical activities are carried out as part of—

"(A) the advanced practice nursing activities under part B;

"(B) the workforce diversity activities under part C; and

"(C) basic nursing education and practice activities under part D.

"(g) STATE AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES.—Activities under grants or contracts under this title shall, to the extent practicable, be consistent with related Federal, State, or regional nursing professions program plans and priorities.

"(h) FILING OF APPLICATIONS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Applications for grants or contracts under this title may be submitted by health professions schools, schools of nursing, academic health centers, State or local governments, or other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities as determined appropriate by the Secretary in accordance with this title.

"(2) FOR PROFIT ENTITIES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a for-profit entity may be eligible for a grant or contract under this title as determined appropriated by the Secretary.

"SEC. 807. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

"Funds appropriated under this title may be used by the Secretary to provide technical assistance in relation to any of the authorities under this title.

"PART B—NURSE PRACTITIONERS, NURSE MIDWIVES, NURSE ANESTHETISTS, AND OTHER ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES

"SEC. 811. ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING GRANTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities to meet the costs of—

"(1) projects that support the enhancement of advanced practice nursing education and practice; and

"(2) traineeships for individuals in advanced practice nursing programs.

"(b) DEFINITION OF ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSES.—For purposes of this section, the term 'advanced practice nurses' means individuals trained in advanced degree programs including individuals in combined R.N./Master's degree programs, post-nursing master's certificate programs, or, in the case of nurse midwives, in certificate programs

in existence on the date that is one day prior to the date of enactment of this section, to serve as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, nurse administrators, or public health nurses, or in other nurse specialties determined by the Secretary to require advanced education.

"(c) AUTHORIZED NURSE PRACTITIONER AND NURSE-MIDWIFERY PROGRAMS.—Nurse practitioner and nurse midwifery programs eligible for support under this section are educational programs for registered nurses (irrespective of the type of school of nursing in which the nurses received their training) that—

"(1) meet guidelines prescribed by the Secretary; and

"(2) have as their objective the education of nurses who will upon completion of their studies in such programs, be qualified to effectively provide primary health care, including primary health care in homes and in ambulatory care facilities, long-term care facilities, acute care, and other health care settings.

"(d) AUTHORIZED NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAMS.—Nurse anesthesia programs eligible for support under this section are education programs that—

"(1) provide registered nurses with full-time anesthetist education; and

"(2) are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

"(e) OTHER AUTHORIZED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall prescribe guidelines as appropriate for other advanced practice nurse education programs eligible for support under this section.

"(f) TRAINEESHIPS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not award a grant to an applicant under subsection (a) unless the applicant involved agrees that traineeships provided with the grant will only pay all or part of the costs of—

"(A) the tuition, books, and fees of the program of advanced nursing practice with respect to which the traineeship is provided; and

"(B) the reasonable living expenses of the individual during the period for which the traineeship is provided.

"(2) DOCTORAL PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may not obligate more than 10 percent of the traineeships under subsection (a) for individuals in doctorate degree programs.

"(3) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In making awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall give special consideration to an eligible entity that agrees to expend the award to train advanced practice nurses who will practice in health professional shortage areas designated under section 332.

"PART C—INCREASING NURSING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

"SEC. 821. WORKFORCE DIVERSITY GRANTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities to meet the costs of special projects to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among registered nurses) by providing student scholarships or stipends, pre-entry preparation, and retention activities.

"(b) GUIDANCE.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into consideration the recommendations of the First, Second and Third Invitational Congresses for Minority Nurse Leaders on 'Caring for the Emerging Majority,' in 1992, 1993 and 1997, and consult with nursing associations including the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Asso-

ciation of Colleges of Nursing, the National Black Nurses Association, the National Association of Hispanic Nurses, the Association of Asian American and Pacific Islander Nurses, the Native American Indian and Alaskan Nurses Association, and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

"(c) REQUIRED INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS FOR AWARD RECIPIENTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Recipients of awards under this section may be required, where requested, to report to the Secretary concerning the annual admission, retention, and graduation rates for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and ethnic and racial minorities in the school or schools involved in the projects.

"(2) FALLING RATES.—If any of the rates reported under paragraph (1) fall below the average of the two previous years, the grant or contract recipient shall provide the Secretary with plans for immediately improving such rates.

"(3) INELIGIBILITY.—A recipient described in paragraph (2) shall be ineligible for continued funding under this section if the plan of the recipient fails to improve the rates within the 1-year period beginning on the date such plan is implemented.

"PART D—STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR BASIC NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

"SEC. 831. BASIC NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE GRANTS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities for projects to strengthen capacity for basic nurse education and practice.

"(b) PRIORITY AREAS.—In awarding grants or contracts under this section the Secretary shall give priority to entities that will use amounts provided under such a grant or contract to enhance the educational mix and utilization of the basic nursing workforce by strengthening programs that provide basic nurse education, such as through—

"(1) establishing or expanding nursing practice arrangements in noninstitutional settings to demonstrate methods to improve access to primary health care in medically underserved communities;

"(2) providing care for underserved populations and other high-risk groups such as the elderly, individuals with HIV-AIDS, substance abusers, the homeless, and victims of domestic violence;

"(3) providing managed care, quality improvement, and other skills needed to practice in existing and emerging organized health care systems;

"(4) developing cultural competencies among nurses;

"(5) expanding the enrollment in baccalaureate nursing programs;

"(6) promoting career mobility for nursing personnel in a variety of training settings and cross training or specialty training among diverse population groups;

"(7) providing education in informatics, including distance learning methodologies; or

"(8) other priority areas as determined by the Secretary.";

(5) by adding at the end the following:

"PART F—AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS

"SEC. 841. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out sections 811, 821, and 831, $65,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary in each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

"PART G—NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

"SEC. 845. NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory council to be known as the National Advisory

Council on Nurse Education and Practice (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Council').

"(b) COMPOSITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall be composed of

"(A) not less than 21, nor more than 23 individuals, who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government, appointed by the Secretary without regard to the Federal civil service laws, of which—

"(i) 2 shall be selected from full-time students enrolled in schools of nursing;

"(ii) 2 shall be selected from the general public;

"(iii) 2 shall be selected from practicing professional nurses; and

"(iv) 9 shall be selected from among the leading authorities in the various fields of nursing, higher, secondary education, and associate degree schools of nursing, and from representatives of advanced practice nursing groups (such as nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and nurse anesthetists), hospitals, and other institutions and orga-

nizations which provide nursing services; and

"(B) the Secretary (or the delegate of the Secretary (who shall be an ex officio member and shall serve as the Chairperson)).

"(2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Council and each such member shall serve a 4 year term. In making such appointments, the Secretary shall ensure a fair balance between the nursing professions, a broad geographic representation of members and a balance between urban and rural members. Members shall be appointed based on their competence, interest, and knowledge of the mission of the profession involved. A majority of the members shall be nurses.

"(3) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—In appointing the members of the Advisory Council under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure the adequate representation of minorities.

"(c) VACANCIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Council shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall be subject

to any conditions which applied with respect to the original appointment.

"(2) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

"(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall—

"(1) provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary and Congress concerning policy matters arising in the administration of this title, including the range of issues relating to the nurse workforce, education, and practice improvement;

"(2) provide advice to the Secretary and Congress in the preparation of general regulations and with respect to policy matters arising in the administration of this title, including the range of issues relating to nurse supply, education and practice improvement; and

"(3) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report describing the activities of the Council, including findings and recommendations made by the Council concerning the activities under this title.

"(e) MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS.—

"(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Council shall meet not less than 2 times each year. Such meetings shall be held jointly with other related entities established under this title where appropriate.

"(2) DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 14 days prior to the convening of a meeting under paragraph (1), the Advisory Council shall prepare and make available an agenda of the matters to be considered by the Advisory Council at such meeting. At any such meeting, the Advisory Council shall distribute materials with respect to the issues to be addressed at the meeting. Not later than 30 days after the adjourning of such a meeting, the Advisory Council shall prepare and make available a summary of the meeting and any actions taken by the Council based upon the meeting.

"(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—

"(1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties

of the Council. All members of the Council who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

"(2) EXPENSES.—The members of the Advisory Council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council.

"(g) FUNDING.—Amounts appropriated under this title may be utilized by the Secretary to support the nurse education and practice activities of the Council.

"(h) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall apply to the Advisory Committee under this section only to the extent that the provisions of such Act do not conflict with the requirements of this section."; and

(6) by redesignating section 855 as section 810, and transferring such section so as to appear after section 809 (as added by the amendment made by paragraph (5)).

SEC. 124. SAVINGS PROVISION.

In the case of any authority for making awards of grants or contracts that is terminated by the amendment made by section 123, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may, notwithstanding the termination of the authority, continue in effect any grant or contract made under the authority that is in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the duration of any such grant or contract not exceeding the period determined by the Secretary in first approving such financial assistance, or in approving the most recent request made (before the date of such enactment) for continuation of such assistance, as the case may be.

Subtitle C—Financial Assistance

CHAPTER 1—SCHOOL-BASED REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS

SEC. 131. PRIMARY CARE LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR SCHOOLS.—Section 723(b)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292s(b)(1)), as amended by section 2014(c)(2)(A)(ii) of Public Law 103–43 (107 Stat. 216), is amended by striking "3 years before" and inserting "4 years before".

(b) NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 723(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292s(a)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

"(3) NONCOMPLIANCE BY STUDENT.—Each agreement entered into with a student pursuant to paragraph (1) shall provide that, if the student fails to comply with such agreement, the loan involved will begin to accrue interest at a rate of 18 percent per year beginning on the date of such noncompliance.".

(c) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 723 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292s) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

SEC. 132. LOANS FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 724(f)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292t(f)(1)) is amended by striking "$15,000,000 for fiscal year 1993" and inserting "$8,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002".

(b) REPEAL.—Effective October 1, 2002, paragraph (1) of section 724(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292t(f)(1)) is repealed.

SEC. 133. STUDENT LOANS REGARDING SCHOOLS OF NURSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 836(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297b(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and" at the end; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: ", and (C) such additional periods under the terms of paragraph (8) of this subsection";

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following paragraph:

"(8) pursuant to uniform criteria established by the Secretary, the repayment period established under paragraph (2) for any student borrower who during the repayment period failed to make consecutive payments and who, during the last 12 months of the repayment period, has made at least 12 consecutive payments may be extended for a period not to exceed 10 years.".

(b) MINIMUM MONTHLY PAYMENTS.—Section 836(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297b(g)) is amended by striking "$15" and inserting "$40".

(c) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 836 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(l) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—

"(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to ensure that obligations to repay loans under this section are enforced without regard to any Federal or State statutory, regulatory, or administrative limitation on the period within which debts may be enforced.

"(2) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, no limitation shall terminate the period within which suit may be filed, a judgment may be enforced, or an offset, garnishment, or other action may be initiated or taken by a school of nursing that has an agreement with the Secretary pursuant to section 835 that is seeking the repayment of the amount due from a borrower on a loan made under this subpart after the default of the borrower on such loan.".

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be effective with respect to actions pending on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) BREACH OF AGREEMENTS.—Section 846 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297n) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

"(h) BREACH OF AGREEMENT.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any program under this section under which an individual makes an agreement to provide health services for a period of time in accordance with such program in consideration of receiving an award of Federal funds regarding education as a nurse (including an award for the repayment of loans), the following applies if the agreement provides that this subsection is applicable:

"(A) In the case of a program under this section that makes an award of Federal funds for attending an accredited program of nursing (in this section referred to as a 'nursing program'), the individual is liable to the Federal Government for the amount of such award (including amounts provided for expenses related to such attendance), and for interest on such amount at the maximum legal prevailing rate, if the individual—

"(i) fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing in the nursing program (as indicated by the program in accordance with requirements established by the Secretary);

"(ii) is dismissed from the nursing program for disciplinary reasons; or

"(iii) voluntarily terminates the nursing program.

"(B) The individual is liable to the Federal Government for the amount of such award (including amounts provided for expenses related to such attendance), and for interest on such amount at the maximum legal prevailing rate, if the individual fails to provide health services in accordance with the program under this section for the period of time applicable under the program.

"(2) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF LIABILITY.—In the case of an individual or health facility making an agreement for purposes of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide for the waiver or suspension of liability under such subsection if compliance by the individual or the health facility, as the case may be, with the agreements involved is impossible, or would

involve extreme hardship to the individual or facility, and if enforcement of the agreements with respect to the individual or facility would be unconscionable.

"(3) DATE CERTAIN FOR RECOVERY.—Subject to paragraph (2), any amount that the Federal Government is entitled to recover under paragraph (1) shall be paid to the United States not later than the expiration of the 3-year period beginning on the date the United States becomes so entitled.

"(4) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts recovered under paragraph (1) with respect to a program under this section shall be available for the purposes of such program, and shall remain available for such purposes until expended.".

(e) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 839 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

"(a) If a school terminates a loan fund established under an agreement pursuant to section 835(b), or if the Secretary for good cause terminates the agreement with the school, there shall be a capital distribution as follows:"; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking "at the close of September 30, 1999," and inserting "on the date of termination of the fund"; and

(2) in subsection (b), to read as follows:

"(b) If a capital distribution is made under subsection (a), the school involved shall, after such capital distribution, pay to the Secretary, not less often than quarterly, the same proportionate share of amounts received by the school in payment of principal or interest on loans made from the loan fund established under section 835(b) as determined by the Secretary under subsection (a).".

SEC. 134. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) MAXIMUM STUDENT LOAN PROVISIONS AND MINIMUM PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 722(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(a)(1)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103–43, is amended by striking "the sum of" and all that follows through the end thereof and inserting "the cost of attendance (including tuition, other reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living costs) for that year at the educational institution attended by the student (as determined by such educational institution).".

(2) THIRD AND FOURTH YEARS.—Section 722(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(a)(2)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103–43, is amended by striking "the amount $2,500" and all that follows through "including such $2,500)" and inserting "the amount of the loan may, in the case of the third or fourth year of a student at a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, be increased to the extent necessary".

(3) REPAYMENT PERIOD.—Section 722(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(c)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103–43, is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking "TEN-YEAR" and inserting "REPAYMENT";

(B) by striking "ten-year period which begins" and inserting "period of not less than 10 years nor more than 25 years, at the discretion of the institution, which begins"; and

(C) by striking "such ten-year period" and inserting "such period".

(4) MINIMUM PAYMENTS.—Section 722(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(j)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103–43, is amended by striking "$15" and inserting $40".

(b) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 722 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103–43, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(m) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—

"(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to ensure that obligations to repay loans under this section are enforced without regard to any Federal or State statutory, regulatory, or administrative limitation on the period within which debts may be enforced.

"(2) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, no limitation shall terminate the period within which suit may be filed, a judgment may be enforced, or an offset, garnishment, or other action may be initiated or taken by a school that has an agreement with the Secretary pursuant to section 721 that is seeking the repayment of the amount due from a borrower on a loan made under this subpart after the default of the borrower on such loan.".

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be effective with respect to actions pending on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) DATE CERTAIN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.—Paragraph (2) of section 735(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292y(e)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

"(2) DATE CERTAIN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.—Amounts described in paragraph (1) that are returned to the Secretary shall be obligated before the end of the succeeding fiscal year.".

CHAPTER 2—INSURED HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS TO GRADUATE STUDENTS

SEC. 141. HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN DEFERMENT FOR BORROWERS PROVIDING HEALTH SERVICES TO INDIANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 705(a)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292d(a)(2)(C)) is amended by striking "and (x)" and inserting "(x) not in excess of three years, during which the borrower is providing health care services to Indians through an Indian health program (as defined in section 108(a)(2)(A) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a(a)(2)(A)); and (xi)".

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 705(a)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292d(a)(2)(C)) is further amended—

(A) in clause (xi) (as so redesignated) by striking "(ix)" and inserting "(x)"; and

(B) in the matter following such clause (xi), by striking "(x)" and inserting "(xi)".

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to services provided on or after the first day of the third month that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 709(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292h(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(B), by adding "and" after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking "; and" and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking paragraph (6).

(c) COLLECTION FROM ESTATES.—Section 714 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292m) is amended by adding at the end the following new sentence: "Notwithstanding the first sentence, the Secretary may, in the case of a borrower who dies, collect any remaining unpaid bal-

ance owed to the lender, the holder of the loan, or the Federal Government from the borrower's estate.".

(d) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) LIMITATIONS ON LOANS.—Section 703(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292b(a)) is amended by striking "or clinical psychology" and inserting "or behavioral and mental health practice, including clinical psychology".

(2) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—Section 719(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292o(1)) is amended by striking "or clinical psychology" and inserting "or behavioral and mental health practice, including clinical psychology".

SEC. 142. HEAL LENDER AND HOLDER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

(a) GENERAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 707(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292f) is amended—

(1) by striking the last sentence;

(2) by striking "determined." and inserting "determined, except that, if the insurance beneficiary including any servicer of the loan is not designated for 'exceptional performance', as set forth in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pay to the beneficiary a sum equal to 98 percent of the amount of the loss sustained by the insured upon that loan.";

(3) by striking "Upon" and inserting:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE.—

"(A) AUTHORITY.—Where the Secretary determines that an eligible lender, holder, or servicer has a compliance performance rating that equals or exceeds 97 percent, the Secretary shall designate that eligible lender, holder, or servicer, as the case may be, for exceptional performance.

"(B) COMPLIANCE PERFORMANCE RATING.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a compliance performance rating is determined with respect to compliance with due diligence in the disbursement, servicing, and collection of loans under this subpart for each year for which the determination is made. Such rating shall be equal to the percentage of all due diligence requirements applicable to each loan, on average, as established by the Secretary, with respect to loans serviced during the period by the eligible lender, holder, or servicer.

"(C) ANNUAL AUDITS FOR LENDERS, HOLDERS, AND SERVICERS.—Each eligible lender, holder, or servicer desiring a designation under subparagraph (A) shall have an annual financial and compliance audit conducted with respect to the loan portfolio of such eligible lender, holder, or servicer, by a qualified independent organization from a list of qualified organizations identified by the Secretary and in accordance with standards established by the Secretary. The standards shall measure the lender's, holder's, or servicer's compliance with due diligence standards and shall include a defined statistical sampling technique designed to measure the performance rating of the eligible lender, holder, or servicer for the purpose of this section. Each eligible lender, holder, or servicer shall submit the audit required by this section to the Secretary.

"(D) SECRETARY'S DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall make the determination under subparagraph (A) based upon the audits submitted under this paragraph and any information in the possession of the Secretary or submitted by any other agency or office of the Federal Government.

"(E) QUARTERLY COMPLIANCE AUDIT.—To maintain its status as an exceptional performer, the lender, holder, or servicer shall undergo a quarterly compliance audit at the end of each quarter (other than the quarter in which status as an exceptional performer is established through a financial and compliance audit, as described in subparagraph (C)), and submit the results of such audit to the Secretary. The compliance audit shall review compliance with due diligence requirements for the period beginning on the day after the ending date of the previous audit, in accordance with standards determined by the Secretary.

"(F) REVOCATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall revoke the designation of a lender, holder, or servicer under subparagraph (A) if any quarterly audit required under subparagraph (E) is not received by the Secretary by the date established by the Secretary or if the audit indicates the lender, holder, or servicer has failed to meet the standards for designation as an exceptional performer under subparagraph (A). A lender, holder, or servicer receiving a compliance audit not meeting the standard for designation

as an exceptional performer may reapply for designation under subparagraph (A) at any time.

"(G) DOCUMENTATION.—Nothing in this section shall restrict or limit the authority of the Secretary to require the submission of claims documentation evidencing servicing performed on loans, except that the Secretary may not require exceptional performers to submit greater documentation than that required for lenders, holders, and servicers not designated under subparagraph (A).

"(H) COST OF AUDITS.—Each eligible lender, holder, or servicer shall pay for all the costs associated with the audits required under this section.

"(I) ADDITIONAL REVOCATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a designation under subparagraph (A) may be revoked at any time by the Secretary if the Secretary determines that the eligible lender, holder, or servicer has failed to maintain an overall level of compliance consistent with the audit submitted by the eligible lender, holder, or servicer under this paragraph or if the Secretary

asserts that the lender, holder, or servicer may have engaged in fraud in securing designation under subparagraph (A) or is failing to service loans in accordance with program requirements.

"(J) NONCOMPLIANCE.—A lender, holder, or servicer designated under subparagraph (A) that fails to service loans or otherwise comply with applicable program regulations shall be considered in violation of the Federal False Claims Act.".

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 707(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292f(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(4) The term 'servicer' means any agency acting on behalf of the insurance beneficiary.".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to loans submitted to the Secretary for payment on or after the first day of the sixth month that begins after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 143. REAUTHORIZATION.

(a) LOAN PROGRAM.—Section 702(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292a(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "$350,000,000" and all that follows through "1995" and inserting "$350,000,000 for

fiscal year 1998, $375,000,000 for fiscal year 1999, and $425,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2000 through 2002";

(2) by striking "obtained prior loans insured under this subpart" and inserting "obtained loans insured under this subpart in fiscal year 2002 or in prior fiscal years";

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new sentence: "The Secretary may establish guidelines and procedures that lenders must follow in distributing funds under this subpart."; and

(4) by striking "September 30, 1998" and inserting "September 30, 2005".

(b) INSURANCE PROGRAM.—Section 710(a)(2)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292i(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking "any of the fiscal years 1993 through 1996" and inserting "fiscal year 1993 and subsequent fiscal years".

SEC. 144. HEAL BANKRUPTCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292f(g)) is amended in the first sentence by striking "A debt which is a loan insured" and inserting "Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, a debt that is a loan insured".

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any loan insured under the authority of subpart I of part A of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq.) that is listed or scheduled by the debtor in a case under title XI, United States Code, filed—

(1) on or after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) prior to such date of enactment in which a discharge has not been granted.

SEC. 145. HEAL REFINANCING.

Section 706 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "CONSOLIDATION" and inserting "REFINANCING OR CONSOLIDATION"; and

(B) in the first sentence, by striking "indebtedness" and inserting "indebtedness or the refinancing of a single loan"; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking "DEBTS" and inserting "DEBTS AND REFINANCING";

(B) in the first sentence, by striking "all of the borrower's debts into a single instrument" and inserting "all of the borrower's loans insured under this subpart into a single instrument (or, if the borrower obtained only 1 loan insured under this subpart, refinancing the loan 1 time)"; and

(C) in the second sentence, by striking "consolidation" and inserting "consolidation or refinancing".

TITLE II—OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH

SEC. 201. REVISION AND EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS OF OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH.

(a) DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1707 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6) is amended by striking subsection (b) and all that follows and inserting the following:

"(b) DUTIES.—With respect to improving the health of racial and ethnic minority groups, the Secretary, acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health (in this section referred to as the 'Deputy Assistant Secretary'), shall carry out the following:

"(1) Establish short-range and long-range goals and objectives and coordinate all other activities with-

in the Public Health Service that relate to disease prevention, health promotion, service delivery, and research concerning such individuals. The heads of each of the agencies of the Service shall consult with the Deputy Assistant Secretary to ensure the coordination of such activities.

"(2) Enter into interagency agreements with other agencies of the Public Health Service.

"(3) Support research, demonstrations and evaluations to test new and innovative models.

"(4) Increase knowledge and understanding of health risk factors.

"(5) Develop mechanisms that support better information dissemination, education, prevention, and service delivery to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups.

"(6) Ensure that the National Center for Health Statistics collects data on the health status of each minority group.

"(7) With respect to individuals who lack proficiency in speaking the English language, enter into contracts with public and nonprofit private providers of primary health services for the purpose of increasing the access of the individuals to such services by

developing and carrying out programs to provide bilingual or interpretive services.

"(8) Support a national minority health resource center to carry out the following:

"(A) Facilitate the exchange of information regarding matters relating to health information and health promotion, preventive health services, and education in the appropriate use of health care.

"(B) Facilitate access to such information.

"(C) Assist in the analysis of issues and problems relating to such matters.

"(D) Provide technical assistance with respect to the exchange of such information (including facilitating the development of materials for such technical assistance).

"(9) Carry out programs to improve access to health care services for individuals with limited proficiency in speaking the English language. Activities under the preceding sentence shall include developing and evaluating model projects.

"(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the Advisory

Committee on Minority Health (in this subsection referred to as the 'Committee').

"(2) DUTIES.—The Committee shall provide advice to the Deputy Assistant Secretary carrying out this section, including advice on the development of goals and specific program activities under paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (b) for each racial and ethnic minority group.

"(3) CHAIR.—The chairperson of the Committee shall be selected by the Secretary from among the members of the voting members of the Committee. The term of office of the chairperson shall be 2 years.

"(4) COMPOSITION.—

"(A) The Committee shall be composed of 12 voting members appointed in accordance with subparagraph (B), and nonvoting, ex officio members designated in subparagraph (C).

"(B) The voting members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government and who have expertise regarding issues of minority health. The racial and ethnic minority groups shall be equally represented among such members.

"(C) The nonvoting, ex officio members of the Committee shall be such officials of the Department of Health and Human Services as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

"(5) TERMS.—Each member of the Committee shall serve for a term of 4 years, except that the Secretary shall initially appoint a portion of the members to terms of 1 year, 2 years, and 3 years.

"(6) VACANCIES.—If a vacancy occurs on the Committee, a new member shall be appointed by the Secretary within 90 days from the date that the vacancy occurs, and serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of such member was appointed. The vacancy shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the duties of the Committee.

"(7) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Committee who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation. Members of the Committee who are not officers or employees of the United States shall receive compensation, for each day (including travel time) they are engaged in the performance of the functions of the Committee. Such compensation may not be in an amount in excess of the daily equivalent of the annual maximum rate of

basic pay payable under the General Schedule (under title 5, United States Code) for positions above GS–15.

"(d) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS REGARDING DUTIES.—

"(1) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LANGUAGE AS IMPEDIMENT TO HEALTH CARE.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health shall consult with the Director of the Office of International and Refugee Health, the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, and the Directors of other appropriate Departmental entities regarding recommendations for carrying out activities under subsection (b)(9).

"(2) EQUITABLE ALLOCATION REGARDING ACTIVITIES.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary shall ensure that services provided under such subsection are equitably allocated among all groups served under this section by the Secretary.

"(3) CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF SERVICES.—The Secretary shall ensure that information and services provided pursuant to subsection (b) are provided in the language, educational, and cultural context that is most appropriate for the individuals for whom the information and services are intended.

"(e) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS REGARDING DUTIES.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary may make awards of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to public and nonprofit private entities.

"(2) PROCESS FOR MAKING AWARDS.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary shall ensure that awards under paragraph (1) are made, to the extent practical, only on a competitive basis, and that a grant is awarded for a proposal only if the proposal has been recommended for such an award through a process of peer review.

"(3) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary, directly or through contracts with public and private entities, shall provide for evaluations of projects carried out with awards made under paragraph (1) during the preceding 2 fiscal years. The report shall be included in the report required under subsection (f) for the fiscal year involved.

"(f) REPORTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than February 1 of fiscal year 1999 and of each second year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives,

and to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, a report describing the activities carried out under this section during the preceding 2 fiscal years and evaluating the extent to which such activities have been effective in improving the health of racial and ethnic minority groups. Each such report shall include the biennial reports submitted under sections 201(e)(3) and 201(f)(2) for such years by the heads of the Public Health Service agencies.

"(2) AGENCY REPORTS.—Not later than February 1, 1999, and biennially thereafter, the heads of the Public Health Service agencies shall submit to the Deputy Assistant Secretary a report summarizing the minority health activities of each of the respective agencies.

"(g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section:

"(1) The term 'racial and ethnic minority group' means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics.

"(2) The term 'Hispanic' means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country.

"(h) FUNDING.—

"(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated $30,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.".

(b) AUTHORIZATION FOR NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS.—Section 306 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (m), by adding at the end the following:

"(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary, acting through the Center, shall collect data on Hispanics and major Hispanic subpopulation groups and American Indians, and for developing special area population studies on major Asian American and Pacific Islander populations.

"(B) The provisions of subparagraph (A) shall be effective with respect to a fiscal year only to the extent that funds are appropriated pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (n), and only if the amounts appropriated for such fiscal year pursuant to each of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (n) equal or exceed the amounts so appropriated for fiscal year 1997.";

(2) in subsection (n)(1), by striking "through 1998" and inserting "through 2003"; and

(3) in subsection (n)

(A) in the first sentence of paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking "authorized in subsection (m)" and inserting "authorized in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (m)"; and

(ii) by striking "$5,000,000" and all that follows through the period and inserting "such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003."; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) For activities authorized in subsection (m)(4), there are authorized to be appropriated $1,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.".

(c) MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS.—Section 1707 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6) is amended—

(1) in the heading for the section by striking "ESTABLISHMENT OF"; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking "Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health" and inserting "Office of Public Health and Science".

TITLE III—SELECTED INITIATIVES

SEC. 301. STATE OFFICES OF RURAL HEALTH.

Section 338J of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254r) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking "in cash"; and

(2) in subsection (j)(1)—

(A) by striking "and" after "1992,"; and

(B) by inserting before the period the following: ", and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002"; and

(3) in subsection (k), by striking "$10,000,000" and inserting "$36,000,000".

SEC. 302. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS REGARDING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 398(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280c–3(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "not less than 5, and not more than 15,";

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting after "disorders" the following: "who are living in single family homes or in congregate settings"; and

(B) by striking "and" at the end;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

"(3) to improve the access of such individuals to home-based or community-based long-term care services (subject to the services being provided by entities that were providing such services in the State involved as of October 1, 1995), particularly such individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups, who have limited proficiency in speaking the English language, or who live in rural areas; and".

(b) DURATION.—Section 398A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280c–4) is amended—

*(1) in the heading for the section, by striking "**LIMITATION**" and all that follows and inserting "**REQUIREMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS**";*

(2) by striking subsection (a);

(3) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively; and

(4) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated), in each of paragraphs (1)(C) and (2)(C), by striking "third year" and inserting "third or subsequent year".

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 398B(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280c–5(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking "and such sums" and inserting "such sums"; and

(2) by inserting before the period the following: ", $8,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002".

SEC. 303. PROJECT GRANTS FOR IMMUNIZATION SERVICES.

Section 317(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "individuals against vaccine-preventable diseases" and all that follows through the first period and inserting the following: "children, adolescents, and adults against vaccine-preventable diseases, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002."; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "1990" and inserting "1997".

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS REGARDING PUBLIC LAW 103–183.

(a) AMENDATORY INSTRUCTIONS.—Public Law 103–183 is amended—

(1) in section 601—

(A) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "Section 1201 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d)" and inserting "Title XII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d et seq.)"; and

(B) in subsection (f)(1), by striking "in section 1204(c)" and inserting "in section 1203(c) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(2) of this section)";

(2) in section 602, by striking "for the purpose" and inserting "For the purpose"; and

(3) in section 705(b), by striking "317D((l)(1)" and inserting "317D(l)(1)".

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.—The Public Health Service Act, as amended by Public Law 103–183 and by subsection (a) of this section, is amended—

(1) in section 317E(g)(2), by striking "making grants under subsection (b)" and inserting "carrying out subsection (b)";

(2) in section 318, in subsection (e) as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of Public Law 103–183, by redesignating the subsection as subsection (f);

(3) in subpart 6 of part C of title IV—

(A) by transferring the first section 447 (added by section 302 of Public Law 103–183) from the current placement of the section;

(B) by redesignating the section as section 447A; and

(C) by inserting the section after section 447;

(4) in section 1213(a)(8), by striking "provides for for" and inserting "provides for";

(5) in section 1501, by redesignating the second subsection (c) (added by section 101(f) of Public Law 103–183) as subsection (d); and

(6) in section 1505(3), by striking "nonprofit".

(c) MISCELLANEOUS CORRECTION.—Section 401(c)(3) of Public Law 103–183 is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking "(d)(5)" and inserting "(e)(5)".

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 308(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking "306(n)" and inserting "306(m)"; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking "306(n)" and inserting "306(m)".

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section is deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Public Law 103–183.

SEC. 402. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS REGARDING PHS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

(a) ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS.—Amend section 212 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 213) by adding the following new subsection at the end thereof:

"(f) Active service of commissioned officers of the Service shall be deemed to be active military service in the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of all laws related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, ethnicity, age, religion, and disability."

(b) TRAINING IN LEAVE WITHOUT PAY STATUS.—Section 218 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 218a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c) A commissioned officer may be placed in leave without pay status while attending an educational institu-

tion or training program whenever the Secretary determines that such status is in the best interest of the Service. For purposes of computation of basic pay, promotion, retirement, compensation for injury or death, and the benefits provided by sections 212 and 224, an officer in such status pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be considered as performing service in the Service and shall have an active service obligation as set forth in subsection (b) of this section.".

(c) UTILIZATION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE RECORDS THAT APPLY TO THE ARMED FORCES.—Section 543(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd–2(e)) is amended by striking "Armed Forces" each place that such term appears and inserting "Uniformed Services".

SEC. 403. CLINICAL TRAINEESHIPS.

Section 303(d)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242a(d)(1)) is amended by inserting "counseling," after "family therapy,".

SEC. 404. PROJECT GRANTS FOR SCREENINGS, REFERRALS, AND EDUCATION REGARDING LEAD POISONING.

Section 317A(l)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–1(l)(1)) is amended by striking "1998" and inserting "2002".

SEC. 405. PROJECT GRANTS FOR PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES REGARDING TUBERCULOSIS.

Section 317E(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b–6(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking "1998" and inserting "2002"; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking "$50,000,000" and inserting "25 percent"; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking "1998" and inserting "2002".

SEC. 406. CDC LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

Section 317F of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-7) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking "$20,000" and inserting "$35,000";

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "1998" and inserting "2002"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(d) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Amounts appropriated for a fiscal year for contracts under subsection (a) shall remain available until the expiration of the second fiscal year beginning after the fiscal year for which the amounts were appropriated.".

SEC. 407. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 318(h)(2) of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42 U.S.C. 10418(h)(2)) is amended by striking "fiscal year 1997" and inserting "for each of the fiscal years 1997 through 2002".

(b) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall request that the Institute of Medicine conduct a study concerning the training needs of health professionals with respect to the detection and referral of victims of family or acquaintance violence. Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Institute of Medicine shall prepare and submit to Congress a report concerning the study conducted under this subsection.

SEC. 408. STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

Section 338I(i)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254q–1(i)(1)) is amended by inserting before the period ", and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002".

SEC. 409. AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF NIH.

Section 402(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (11), by striking "and" at the end thereof;

(2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding after paragraph (12), the following new paragraphs:

"(13) may conduct and support research training—

"(A) for which fellowship support is not provided under section 487; and

"(B) which does not consist of residency training of physicians or other health professionals; and

"(14) may appoint physicians, dentists, and other health care professionals, subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to appointments and classifications in the competitive service, and may compensate such professionals subject to the provisions of chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code.".

SEC. 410. RAISE IN MAXIMUM LEVEL OF LOAN REPAYMENTS.

(a) REPAYMENT PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO AIDS.—Section 487A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 288–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking "$20,000" and inserting "$35,000"; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking "1996" and inserting "2001".

(b) REPAYMENT PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO CONTRACEPTION AND INFERTILITY.—Section 487B(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 288–2(a)) is amended by striking "$20,000" and inserting "$35,000".

(c) REPAYMENT PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RESEARCH GENERALLY.—Section 487C(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 288–3(a)(1)) is amended by striking "$20,000" and inserting "$35,000".

(d) REPAYMENT PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO CLINICAL RESEARCHERS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS.—Section 487E(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 288–5(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking "$20,000" and inserting "$35,000"; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking "338C" and inserting "338B, 338C".

SEC. 411. CONSTRUCTION OF REGIONAL CENTERS FOR RESEARCH ON PRIMATES.

Section 481B(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 287a–3(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking "shall" and inserting "may"; and

(2) by striking "$5,000,000" and inserting "up to $2,500,000".

SEC. 412. PEER REVIEW.

Section 504(d)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa–3(d)(2)) is amended by striking "cooperative agreement, or contract" each place that such appears and inserting "or cooperative agreement".

SEC. 413. FUNDING FOR TRAUMA CARE.

Section 1232(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d–32) is amended by striking "and 1996" and inserting "through 2002".

SEC. 414. HEALTH INFORMATION AND HEALTH PROMOTION.

Section 1701(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u(b)) is amended by striking "through 1996" and inserting "through 2002".

SEC. 415. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.

Section 1910 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300w–9) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking "two-year period" and inserting "3-year period (with an optional 4th year based on performance)"; and

(B) by striking "one grant" and inserting "3 grants"; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking "1997" and inserting "2005".

SEC. 416. ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2004 of Public Law 103–43 (107 Stat. 209) is amended by striking subsection (a).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2004 of Public Law 103–43, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, is amended—

(1) by striking "(b) SENSE" and all that follows through "In the case" and inserting the following:

"(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS.—In the case";

(2) by striking "(2) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE" and inserting the following:

"(b) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE"; and

(3) in subsection (b), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking "paragraph (1)" and inserting "subsection (a)".

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section is deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Public Law 103–43.

SEC. 417. AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 2618(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ff–28(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking "and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico" and inserting ", the

Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam"; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking "the Virgin Islands, Guam".

SEC. 418. NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.

Part I of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290b et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the part heading and inserting the following:

"PART I—FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH";

and

(2) in section 499—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking "National Foundation for Biomedical Research" and inserting "Foundation for the National Institutes of Health";

(B) in subsection (k)(10)—

(i) by striking "not"; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following: "Any funds transferred under this paragraph shall be subject to all Federal limitations relating to Federally-funded research."; and

(C) in subsection (m)(1), by striking "$200,000" and all that follows through "1995" and inserting "$500,000 for each fiscal year".