

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2126

To recognize the importance of the Veterans' Administration Medical School Assistance and Health Manpower Training Act of 1972 in addressing shortfalls in the number of physicians and other health care professionals employed in the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reauthorize the program of grants to medical schools affiliated with the Department, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2003

Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. HOBSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To recognize the importance of the Veterans' Administration Medical School Assistance and Health Manpower Training Act of 1972 in addressing shortfalls in the number of physicians and other health care professionals employed in the health care system of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to reauthorize the program of grants to medical schools affiliated with the Department, and for other purposes.

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

1 **SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Teague Grant Reau-  
3 thorization Act”.

4 **SECTION 2. SUCCESS OF VETERANS’ ADMINISTRATION**  
5 **MEDICAL SCHOOL ASSISTANCE AND HEALTH**  
6 **MANPOWER TRAINING ACT OF 1972 IN ALLE-**  
7 **VIATING SHORTAGES OF HEALTH CARE PRO-**  
8 **FESSIONALS.**

9 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

10 (1) A severe shortage in the number of physi-  
11 cians and other health care professionals in the  
12 United States is predicted for the next two decades,  
13 as a result of a substantial growth in demand for  
14 medical services compared with the number of med-  
15 ical school graduates, foreign doctors in the United  
16 States, and other health care professionals available  
17 to meet that demand.

18 (2) Recent studies based on current trends pre-  
19 dict a national shortage of up to 50,000 physicians  
20 by 2010 and up to 200,000 physicians by 2020.

21 (3) The passage and funding of the Veterans’  
22 Administration Medical School Assistance and  
23 Health Manpower Training Act of 1972 (Public Law  
24 92–541), which added chapter 82 to title 38, United  
25 States Code, helped to prevent a predicted shortage  
26 of physicians and other health care professionals in

1 the 1970s and 1980s, and resulted in the establish-  
2 ment of five new medical schools in the United  
3 States, at East Tennessee State University, the Uni-  
4 versity of South Carolina, Texas A&M University,  
5 Wright State University, and Marshall University,  
6 each operated in conjunction with health care facili-  
7 ties of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

8 (4) Over the past three decades, the partner-  
9 ships between the Department of Veterans Affairs  
10 and those five medical schools not only helped pre-  
11 vent such a physician shortage, but also fostered sig-  
12 nificant gains in the quality of physician education,  
13 medical research, and health care delivery.

14 (5) Physicians and other health care profes-  
15 sionals educated in those medical schools have bene-  
16 fited from the rich and diverse educational experi-  
17 ences available in veterans' health care facilities.

18 (6) Veterans and their families have benefited  
19 from medical care that is enhanced by faculty physi-  
20 cians, residency training, and comprehensive medical  
21 education that is available in veterans health care  
22 facilities affiliated with those medical schools.

23 (b) RECOGNITION.—Congress hereby recognizes—

24 (1) the 30th anniversary of the enactment of  
25 the Veterans' Administration Medical School Assist-

1       ance and Health Manpower Training Act of 1972  
2       (Public Law 92–541);

3           (2) the critical and historic role played by that  
4       Act towards alleviating the shortfall in the number  
5       of physicians and other health care professionals;  
6       and

7           (3) the importance of continued growth in the  
8       partnerships between the Department of Veterans  
9       Affairs and medical schools affiliated with the De-  
10      partment.

11 **SEC. 3. DECLARATION OF PURPOSE AND DESIGNATION OF**  
12                                   **GRANTS.**

13       Section 8221 of title 38, United States Code, is  
14      amended—

15           (1) by striking “and to cooperate” and all that  
16       follows through “such subchapter” and inserting “to  
17       address shortfalls in the number of physicians and  
18       other health care professionals employed in the Vet-  
19       erans Health Administration”; and

20           (2) by adding at the end the following new sen-  
21       tence: “Grants under this subchapter shall be known  
22       as ‘Teague Grants’ in honor of the most-decorated  
23       veteran ever to have served in Congress, the Honor-  
24       able Olin E. ‘Tiger’ Teague of Texas.”.

1 **SEC. 4. REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM OF GRANTS TO**  
2 **AFFILIATED MEDICAL SCHOOLS.**

3 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
4 8222 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

5 (1) by striking subsection (a) and inserting the  
6 following new subsection:

7 “(a) There is authorized to be appropriated for car-  
8 rying out programs authorized under this subchapter  
9 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.”;  
10 and

11 (2) by striking subsection (c).

12 (b) CRITERIA FOR GRANTS.—Subsection (b) of sec-  
13 tion 8223 of such title is amended—

14 (1) in paragraph (1), by inserting before the  
15 semicolon the following: “and will increase the num-  
16 ber of medical or nursing students attending the  
17 school”;

18 (2) by striking “and” at the end of paragraph  
19 (3);

20 (3) by redesignating paragraph (4) as para-  
21 graph (5); and

22 (4) by inserting after paragraph (3) the fol-  
23 lowing new paragraph:

24 “(4) the application sets forth demonstrated  
25 benefits to the Department and to the care of vet-  
26 erans; and”.

1           (c) PRIORITY OF GRANT AWARDS.—Such section is  
2 further amended by adding at the end the following new  
3 subsection:

4           “(c) The Secretary shall give priority in the award  
5 of grants under this section to the medical schools estab-  
6 lished pursuant to subchapter I.”.

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