

108TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 623

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the shortage of  
medical laboratory personnel.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 5, 2003

Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. BILIRAKIS) intro-  
duced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy  
and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to  
the shortage of medical laboratory personnel.

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

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Medical Laboratory  
5 Personnel Shortage Act of 2003”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESPONSE TO SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL LABORA-**  
2 **TORY PERSONNEL; PROGRAMS OF HEALTH**  
3 **RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRA-**  
4 **TION.**

5 (a) SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PRO-  
6 GRAMS.—Section 737 of the Public Health Service Act (42  
7 U.S.C. 293a)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
8 lowing subsection:

9 “(e) SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PRO-  
10 GRAM FOR MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS, MEDICAL LABORA-  
11 TORY TECHNICIANS, AND OTHER MEDICAL LABORATORY  
12 PERSONNEL.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-  
14 lish a program of scholarships and loan repayment  
15 for the purpose of alleviating the shortage of medical  
16 laboratory personnel. The scholarship and loan re-  
17 payment program shall include a period of obligated  
18 service for recipients in a designated health profes-  
19 sional shortage area, or other area where there is a  
20 shortage of medical laboratory personnel. The Sec-  
21 retary may model the program after the scholarship  
22 and loan repayment programs under sections 338A  
23 and 338B.

24 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Schools of allied  
25 health, and health care institution-based programs

1 training medical laboratory personnel, are eligible to  
2 receive awards under paragraph (1).

3 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
4 For the purpose of carrying out this subsection,  
5 there are authorized to be appropriated \$11,193,000  
6 in fiscal year 2004, and such sums as may be nec-  
7 essary for each of the fiscal years 2005 through  
8 2008. Such authorization is in addition to other au-  
9 thorizations of appropriations that are available for  
10 such purpose.”.

11 (b) OTHER PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE VII.—

12 (1) ALLIED HEALTH AND OTHER DIS-  
13 CIPLINES.—

14 (A) PREFERENCE IN MAKING AWARDS;  
15 PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—Section  
16 755 of the Public Health Service Act (42  
17 U.S.C. 294e)) is amended by adding at the end  
18 the following subsections:

19 “(c) PREFERENCE IN MAKING AWARDS.—In making  
20 awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a), the  
21 Secretary shall give preference to making awards to assist  
22 entities in meeting the costs associated with expanding or  
23 establishing programs that will increase the number of in-  
24 dividuals trained as medical laboratory personnel.

1       “(d) PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS.—The Sec-  
2 retary shall develop and issue public service announce-  
3 ments that advertise and promote medical laboratory per-  
4 sonnel careers, highlight the advantages and rewards of  
5 medical laboratory personnel careers, and encourage indi-  
6 viduals to enter medical laboratory personnel careers.”.

7               (B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-  
8 TIONS.—Section 757 of the Public Health Serv-  
9 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 294g(a)) is amended by add-  
10 ing at the end the following subsection:

11       “(d) ALLIED HEALTH AND OTHER DISCIPLINES.—  
12 For the purpose of carrying out section 755, there are au-  
13 thorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for fiscal year  
14 2004, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the  
15 fiscal years 2005 through 2008. Such authorization is in  
16 addition to the authorizations of appropriations under  
17 subsection (a) that are available for such purpose.”.

18               (2) OTHER TITLE VII PROGRAMS.—Section 740  
19 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293d)  
20 is amended—

21               (A) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-  
22 section (e); and

23               (B) by inserting after subsection (c) the  
24 following subsection:

1       “(d) MEDICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL.—For the  
2 purpose of increasing the number of individuals trained  
3 as medical laboratory personnel through making awards  
4 of grants or contracts under sections 737 through 739 for  
5 appropriate schools of allied health, there are authorized  
6 to be appropriated, in addition to authorizations of appro-  
7 priations under subsections (a) through (c) that are avail-  
8 able for such purpose, the following:

9           “(1) For awards under section 738 to serve as  
10 members of the faculty of such schools, \$332,500 for  
11 fiscal year 2004, and such sums as may be nec-  
12 essary for each of the fiscal years 2005 through  
13 2008.

14           “(2) For awards under section 739 to such  
15 schools, \$8,200,000 for fiscal year 2004, and such  
16 sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal  
17 years 2005 through 2008.”.

18           (3) DEFINITION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY  
19 PERSONNEL.—Section 799B of the Public Health  
20 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) is amended by adding  
21 at the end the following:

22           “(12) The term ‘medical laboratory personnel’  
23 means allied health professionals (as defined in  
24 paragraph (5)) who are medical technologists,  
25 cytotechnologists, histotechnologists, phlebotomists,

1 or medical laboratory technicians, or who are in  
2 other fields that, within the meaning of section  
3 353(a) (relating to the certification of clinical labo-  
4 ratories), examine materials derived from the  
5 human body for the purpose of providing informa-  
6 tion for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of  
7 any disease or impairment of, or the assessment of  
8 the health of, human beings.”.

9 **SEC. 3. RESPONSE TO SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL LABORA-**  
10 **TORY PERSONNEL; PROGRAMS OF CENTERS**  
11 **FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.**

12 Title XV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
13 300k et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1509  
14 the following section:

15 **“SEC. 1509A. SHORTAGE OF TECHNOLOGISTS FOR LABORA-**  
16 **TORY ANALYSIS REGARDING SCREENING FOR**  
17 **CERVICAL CANCER.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
19 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services  
20 Administration and in collaboration with the Director of  
21 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall  
22 make grants to appropriate public and nonprofit private  
23 entities to provide training to increase the number of  
24 cytotechnologists who are available with respect to screen-  
25 ing women for cervical cancer.

1 “(b) FUNDING.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),  
3 for the purpose of carrying out this section, there  
4 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for  
5 fiscal year 2004, and such sums as may be nec-  
6 essary for each of the fiscal years 2005 through  
7 2008.

8 “(2) LIMITATION.—The authorization of appro-  
9 priations established in paragraph (1) is not effec-  
10 tive for a fiscal year unless the amount appropriated  
11 under section 1510(a) for the fiscal year is equal to  
12 or greater than \$173,928,000.”.

13 **SEC. 4. RESPONSE TO SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL LABORA-**  
14 **TORY PERSONNEL; PROGRAMS OF NATIONAL**  
15 **HEART, LUNG, AND BLOOD INSTITUTE.**

16 Section 422(c)(3)(C) of the Public Health Service Act  
17 (42 U.S.C. 285b–4(c)(3)(C)) is amended by inserting  
18 after “allied health professionals” the following: “, with  
19 emphasis given in the training of such professionals to the  
20 training of medical laboratory personnel (as defined in sec-  
21 tion 799B) in medical laboratory disciplines with respect  
22 to which there are needs for increased numbers of per-  
23 sonnel”.

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