

108TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1868

To authorize a 3-year demonstration program to recruit and train physicians to serve in rural settings.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 17, 2003

Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. ENZI, Mr. BURNS, and Mr. BAUCUS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To authorize a 3-year demonstration program to recruit and train physicians to serve in rural settings.

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 “Rural Health Training
5 Incentive Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. WWAMI DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.**

7 (a) GRANT AUTHORIZED.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
9 Human Services (in this section referred to as the

1 “Secretary”) is authorized to award a grant to the
2 Washington, Wyoming, Alaska, Montana, and Idaho
3 joint medical school (in this section referred to as
4 “WWAMI”) to strengthen and expand programs to
5 encourage more health professionals to practice in
6 rural areas.

7 (2) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award the
8 grant described in paragraph (1) for a period of 3
9 years.

10 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—The grant awarded pursuant
11 to subsection (a) may be used for activities including—

12 (1) developing new mechanisms for recruiting
13 and mentoring rural youth with respect to all health
14 professions;

15 (2) strengthening and stabilizing the system of
16 training for the family physicians needed in rural
17 areas; and

18 (3) expanding the network of rural training
19 tracks throughout WWAMI.

20 (c) EVALUATION AND REPORT.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months
22 after the end of the grant period described in sub-
23 section (a)(2), WWAMI shall—

24 (A) evaluate the results of the programs
25 assisted under this section; and

1 (B) submit to the Secretary a report re-
2 garding such evaluation.

3 (2) EVALUATION.—

4 (A) CONTRACT.—The evaluation described
5 in paragraph (1) shall be carried out through a
6 contract with an entity having experience with
7 assessing workforce issues in the region of the
8 WWAMI.

9 (B) MATTERS EVALUATED.—The evalua-
10 tion shall—

11 (i) assess the effectiveness of the
12 funds made available under this section in
13 attracting, placing, and retaining physi-
14 cians in rural communities;

15 (ii) include an assessment of baseline
16 rural primary care provider availability,
17 track participants in the programs assisted
18 under this section, and quantify the out-
19 come impact of the funds made available
20 under this section;

21 (iii) address the multiyear grant pe-
22 riod; and

23 (iv) use existing data bases, a track-
24 ing registry, focus groups, and periodic

1 surveys to assess the effectiveness of the
2 programs; and

3 (v) address whether the programs
4 should be expanded under section 3.

5 (3) REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS.—The report
6 described in paragraph (1) shall include rec-
7 ommendations regarding—

8 (A) the effectiveness of the programs as-
9 sisted under this section; and

10 (B) project expansion under section 3.

11 **SEC. 3. PROJECT EXPANSION.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—After submission of the report re-
13 quired under section 2(c), the Secretary is authorized to
14 award grants to eligible entities to expand the programs
15 assisted under section 2, and to implement the rec-
16 ommendations made in such report, in other geographic
17 areas.

18 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—As used in this
19 section, the term “eligible entity” means a partnership be-
20 tween—

21 (1) a regional university or college; and

22 (2) the medical school associated with such uni-
23 versity or college that has a rural area training track
24 of at least 2 months.

1 **SEC. 4. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appro-
3 priated to carry out subsections (a) and (b) of section 2,
4 \$3,400,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$4,100,000 for fiscal year
5 2006 and \$4,800,000 for fiscal year 2007.

6 (b) REPORT AND EVALUATION.—There are author-
7 ized to be appropriated to carry out subsection (c) of sec-
8 tion 2, \$100,000 for fiscal year 2005, \$100,000 for fiscal
9 year 2006, and \$300,000 for fiscal year 2007.

10 (c) PROJECT EXPANSION.—There are authorized to
11 be appropriated to carry out section 3, such sums as may
12 be necessary for fiscal year 2007 and each succeeding fis-
13 cal year.

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