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114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1312

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 4, 2015

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS (for herself, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. KINZINGER of Illinois, Mr. LONG, Mr. GRIFFITH, and Mr. SCHRADER) introduced 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 to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''National Health Service Corps Improvement Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. PARTICIPATION OF OPTOMETRISTS IN NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.

(1) PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—Section 331 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3)(D), by striking ''or mental health,'' and inserting ''optometry, or mental health,''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2), by striking ''and physician assistants'' and inserting ''optometrists, and physician assistants''.

(2) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 338A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''and physician assistants'' and inserting ''optometrists, and physician assistants''; and

(B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking ''or other health profession'' and inserting ''optometry, or other health profession''.

(3) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—

(A) PARTICIPATION.—Section 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1) is amended—

(i) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''and physician assistants'' and inserting ''optometrists, and physician assistants'';

(ii) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by striking ''or another health profession'' and inserting ''optometry, or another health profession''; and

(iii) in subsections (b)(1)(B) and (b)(1)(C)(ii), by striking the term ''or other health profession'' each place such term appears and inserting ''optometry, or other health profession''.

(B) PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—Clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 338C(b)(5)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254m(b)(5)(C)) are amended by striking the term ''or other health profession'' each place such term appears and inserting ''optometry, or other health profession''.

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