

114TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 4819

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program for States that provide flexibility in licensing for health care providers who offer services on a volunteer basis.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 21, 2016

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, and Mr. DESJARLAIS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program for States that provide flexibility in licensing for health care providers who offer services on a volunteer basis.

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 “Health for Each Amer-  
5 ican Less fortunate Through Help from medical profes-

1 sionals In Every Rural and impoverished area Act of  
2 2016” or the “HEALTHIER Act of 2016”.

3 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATES PROVIDING FLEXI-**  
4 **BILITY IN LICENSING FOR HEALTH CARE**  
5 **PROVIDERS WHO OFFER SERVICES ON A VOL-**  
6 **UNTEER BASIS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
8 Human Services shall establish a two-year grant program  
9 under which the Secretary awards grants to States that  
10 adopt a volunteer health care provider law during the pe-  
11 riod of the grant program and to States that have adopted  
12 such a law before such period.

13 (b) VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER LAW.—  
14 For purposes of this section, the term “volunteer health  
15 care provider law” means, a law of a State that permits  
16 a health care provider to provide health care services in  
17 such State (in this subsection referred to as the “volunteer  
18 health care provider law State”), even though the provider  
19 is not licensed in such State to provide such services, if—

20 (1) such services are offered and provided in  
21 the volunteer health care provider law State solely  
22 on a volunteer basis to rural or impoverished areas  
23 (as defined by such volunteer health care provider  
24 law State) that are located within such State; and

1           (2) such provider has an active, unencumbered  
2 license to practice in another State and such services  
3 are within the scope of practice of such provider (as  
4 defined by such volunteer health care provider law  
5 State).

6           (c) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

7           (1) ONE-TIME GRANT.—A State shall be eligible  
8 for not more than one grant under this section.

9           (2) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a  
10 grant awarded a State under this section shall be  
11 \$1,000,000.

12           (d) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this  
13 section:

14           (1) VOLUNTEER BASIS.—The term “volunteer  
15 basis” means, with respect to health care services  
16 provided by a health care provider, that such serv-  
17 ices are provided by such provider—

18                   (A) on behalf of a nonprofit organization,  
19 such as a church or charity;

20                   (B) without receipt by such provider of  
21 compensation (other than reasonable reimburse-  
22 ment or allowance for expenses actually in-  
23 curred) for providing such services; and

24                   (C) for a period not to exceed 7 consecu-  
25 tive days.

1           (2) STATE.—The term “State” means any of  
2           the 50 States and the District of Columbia, the  
3           Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States  
4           Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands,  
5           and American Samoa.

6           (e) FUNDING FROM CONTINGENCY FUND FOR STATE  
7           WELFARE PROGRAMS.—

8           (1) IN GENERAL.—There is transferred, from  
9           amounts appropriated to the Contingency Fund for  
10          State Welfare Programs under section 403(b) of the  
11          Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 603(b)) for fiscal  
12          year 2017, \$56,000,000 to the Secretary of Health  
13          and Human Services for the purposes of carrying  
14          out the grant program established under subsection  
15          (a). Such funds shall remain available for such pur-  
16          poses through fiscal year 2018. Of the funds trans-  
17          ferred under this paragraph, any amount that has  
18          not been obligated by September 30, 2018, shall be  
19          restored to the Contingency Fund for State Welfare  
20          Programs.

21          (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
22          403(b)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
23          603(b)(2)) is amended by inserting “, subject to sec-

1       tion 2(e)(1) of the HEALTHIER Act of 2016,”  
2       after “there are appropriated”.

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