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114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1426

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 21, 2015

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WICKER) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, 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 ''Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act of 2015''.

SEC. 2. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS; PARTICIPATION OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IN LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

(a) MISSION OF CORPS; DEFINITION OF PRIMARY HEALTH SERVICES.—Section 331(a)(3)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(a)(3)(D)) is amended by striking ''or mental health,'' and inserting ''mental health, or physical therapy,''.

(b) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking ''and physician assistants;'' and inserting ''physician assistants, and physical therapists;''; and

(2) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon the following: '', or have a doctoral or master's degree in physical therapy'';

(B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting ''physical therapy,'' after ''mental health,''; and

(C) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by inserting ''physical therapy,'' after ''dentistry,''.

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