114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION  

S. 789

To establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues related to recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 18, 2015

Ms. MIKULSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary of Health and Human Services on policy issues related to recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work, 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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) Short Title.—This Act may be cited as the “Dorothy I. Height and Whitney M. Young, Jr., Social Work Reinvestment Act”.

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(b) **Table of Contents.—**

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**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

Congress finds the following:

1. Although the poverty rate in the United States has slightly declined for the first time since 2006, to 14.5 percent in 2013, poverty remains a social issue for our Nation, especially for communities of color and women and children, who continue to experience higher than average poverty rates. Homeowners and those seeking to become homeowners continue to face challenges with high mortgage delinquency, mortgage loan interest rates, and threats of foreclosure. Joblessness and economic insecurity contribute to the incidence of mental illness, family violence, suicide, substance abuse, crime, and dimin-
ished capacity for health, family, and community functioning.

(2) Social workers form society’s social safety net. Social workers provide assistance, guidance, and resources to individuals, families, and communities in poverty. Additionally, social workers understand the devastating costs and consequences of poverty and unemployment on our society and provide direct services in order to prevent and abate economic inequality.

(3) The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that the social work profession will grow at an above-average rate through the year 2020, with a 19-percent growth rate overall and a 27-percent projected growth rate for health care social workers. This increase is faster than the average for all occupations, demonstrating a substantial need for social workers in our Nation.

(4) Social work salaries, on average, are among the lowest for all occupations in the United States and for those with a master’s degree in particular. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, the median annual income for social workers in 2012 was $44,200.
(5) The report titled “2013 Statistics on Social Work Education in the United States” by the Council on Social Work Education stated that 80.5 percent of students graduating from Master of Social Work programs incurred debt to earn their graduate degree. The average debt for a Master of Social Work degree was approximately $41,754.

(6) Social workers often deal with the most vulnerable clients in emotional or traumatic situations, and face possible danger as a result. The National Association of Social Workers Center for Workforce Studies found that 44 percent of survey respondents faced personal safety issues on the job. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration states that 48 percent of assaults occur in the health care and social services industry.

(7) The Alzheimer’s Association of America states that 5,000,000 Americans, or 1 in every 9 individuals over the age of 65, have Alzheimer’s disease. Social workers in gerontology settings work with older adults, including those with dementia, to support their physiological, psychological, and social needs through mental health therapy, caregiver and family counseling, health education, program coordination, and case management.
(8) The Children’s Defense Fund states that every 47 seconds a child is confirmed as abused or neglected and every 5 and a half hours a child is killed from abuse or neglect. The Administration for Children and Families of the Department of Health and Human Services states that 402,378 children were in the United States foster care system in 2013. Most children placed in foster care are placed due to parental abuse or neglect. Research shows that professional social workers employed in child welfare agencies are more likely to find permanent homes for children who have been in foster care for 2 or more years. Unfortunately, less than 40 percent of child welfare workers are professional social workers.

(9) The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration of the Department of Health and Human Services estimates that 43,800,000 individuals (nearly 1 in 5) in the United States who are age 18 or older experienced a diagnosable mental illness in 2013. Additionally, at least 2,600,000 (1 in 10) youth between the ages of 12 and 17 experienced major depressive episodes. Social workers provide the majority of mental health counseling services in the United States, and are
often the only providers of such services in rural areas.

(10) Social workers working with veterans and their families provide services that include case management, crisis interventions, mental health interventions, housing and financial counseling, high-risk screening, and advocacy. The Department of Veterans Affairs, which is the largest employer of social workers in the Nation, employs 11,000 social workers who serve an estimated 21,999,000 veterans in the United States. A once-declining veteran population is now surging and is in dire need of mental health treatment to address issues such as post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, drug and alcohol addiction, and suicidal tendencies.

(11) The American Cancer Society estimates that there will be 1,658,370 new cases of cancer and 589,430 deaths from cancer, or 1,614 deaths a day, in 2015 alone. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that there are over 1,200,000 people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States, with approximately 47,500 new cases diagnosed each year. In 2013, 1,500,000 to 1,600,000 people received care from the Nation’s hospice providers. Health care and medical social workers practice in
areas related to all of these circumstances and pro-
vide outreach for prevention and health promotion,
help individuals and their families adapt to their
health conditions, connect patients and family care-
givers with community services and supports, pro-
vide grief counseling, and act as a liaison between
individuals and their medical team, helping patients
make informed decisions about their care.

(12) The Children’s Defense Fund notes that
every 2 seconds a public school student is suspended
and that every 9 seconds a high school student drops
out. The National Center for Education Statistics
states that in 2012 the national dropout rate for
high school students was 7 percent. Some vulnerable
communities have dropout rates of 50 percent or
higher. Social workers in school settings help stu-
dents avoid dropping out through early identifica-
tion, prevention, intervention, counseling, and sup-
port services.

(13) According to the Department of Justice,
every year more than 688,000 ex-offenders are re-
leased from Federal and State prisons. Social work-
ers employed in the correctional system address dis-
proportionate minority incarceration rates, provide
treatment for mental health problems and drug and
alcohol addiction, and work within, as well as outside of, prisons to reduce recidivism and increase positive community reentry.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER.**—The term “clinical social worker” has the meaning given the term in section 1861(hh)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(hh)(1)).

(2) **COMMUNITY-BASED PROGRAM.**—The term “community-based program” means an agency, organization, or other entity carrying out a program that provides direct social work services or community development services at a neighborhood, local, or regional level, to address human service, health care, or psychosocial needs.

(3) **HIGH NEED AND HIGH DEMAND POPULATION.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “high need and high demand population” means a group of individuals that lacks sufficient resources and, as a result, has a greater probability of being harmed by specific social, environmental, or health problems than the population as a whole.
(B) GROUP.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term “group” includes a population residing in a health professional shortage area, as defined in section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254E), that has a shortage of primary medical care, dental, or mental health providers.

(4) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—The term “historically Black college or university” has the meaning given the term “part B institution” in section 322(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

(5) MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term “minority-serving institution” means an institution of higher education that serves a large percentage of minority students, as determined by the Secretary of Education, including the following:

(A) Alaska Native-serving institutions, as defined in section 317(b)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)(2)).

(B) Native Hawaiian-serving institutions, as defined in section 317(b)(4) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059d(b)(4)).

(C) Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions, as defined
in section 320(b)(2) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059g(b)(2)).

(D) Hispanic-serving institutions, as defined in section 502(a)(5) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1101a(a)(5)).

(E) Tribal colleges or universities, as defined in section 316(b)(3) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059e(b)(3)).

(F) Native American-serving, nontribal institutions, as defined in section 319(b)(2) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059f(b)(2)).

(G) Predominantly Black Institutions, as defined in section 318(b)(6) of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1059e(b)(6)).

(H) Historically Black colleges or universities.

(6) PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE.—The term “program of excellence” means a program of distinction in a field related to human service, hosted by a public or private agency, that has received State or national recognition or another clearly defined indicator appropriate to the mission of the program, has clearly defined and measurable goals and objectives, regularly assesses outcomes, and can provide
evidence of a strong assessment plan that utilizes as-
essment data to improve the program.

(7) RELATED PROFESSIONAL RESEARCHER.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “related pro-
essional researcher” means a doctoral level re-
searcher or any other individual who is profes-
ionally engaged in research in a social, polit-
ical, economic, health, or mental health field
other than social work.

(B) RESEARCH.—In this paragraph, the
term “research” means study of a type that is
primarily conducted under the auspices of an
institution of higher education, government en-
tity, research institute, community agency, or a
similar entity.

(8) SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK.—The term
“school of social work” means a school that is ac-
credited by the Council on Social Work Education
(the sole accrediting agency recognized by the Coun-
cil for Higher Education Accreditation for social
work education in the United States) within an in-
stitution of higher education, that offers baccala-
ureate, master’s, or doctoral degrees in social
work.
(9) Secretary.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(10) Social work.—The term “social work” means—

(A) the professional activity of helping individuals, families, groups, or communities enhance or restore capacity for social and psychosocial functioning and creating societal conditions favorable to such enhancement or restoration;

(B) the professional application of values, principles, and techniques related to the activity described in subparagraph (A), including—

(i) diagnosing mental and emotional disorders and treating individuals, families, or groups for such disorders;

(ii) helping communities or groups provide or improve social and health services and participating in relevant legislative processes to achieve such goals; and

(iii) helping individuals, families, groups, or communities obtain tangible services, including personal, protective, informational, advisory, community, or main-
tenance services in order to improve the overall well-being of individuals; and 

(C) a professional activity that requires knowledge of human development, the behavior of social, economic, and cultural institutions, and the interaction between such development and behavior.

(11) SOCIAL WORK RESEARCHER.—

(A) In general.—The term “social work researcher” means an individual who researches social work at an individual, family, group, community, organizational, or policy level, focusing across the human life span on prevention, treatment, and aftercare of, intervention in, and rehabilitation from, acute and chronic social and psychosocial conditions, including the study of the effect of policies on social work practice.

(B) Research.—In this paragraph, the term “research” means study of a type that is primarily conducted by faculty members of an institution of higher education, doctoral level researchers, or any other individuals who are professionally engaged in the study of social work under the auspices of an institution of higher
education, government entity, research institute, community agency, or a similar entity.

(12) SOCIAL WORKER.—The term “social worker” means an individual who—

(A) has a baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral degree in social work from an institution of higher education; and

(B) uses knowledge and skills to provide social work services for individuals, families, groups, communities, organizations, or society in general.

TITLE I—SOCIAL WORK REINVESTMENT COMMISSION

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish the Social Work Reinvestment Commission (referred to in this title as the “Commission”) to provide independent counsel to Congress and the Secretary on policy issues related to recruitment, retention, research, and reinvestment in the profession of social work.

SEC. 102. MEMBERS.

(a) APPOINTMENT BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the
Secretary shall appoint members to the Commission. The members shall include—

1. 2 deans of schools of social work;
2. 1 social work researcher;
3. 1 related professional researcher;
4. 1 Governor of a State;
5. 2 leaders of national social work organizations;
6. 1 senior State government employee who is not an elected official who has a baccalaureate, master’s, or doctoral degree in social work;
7. 2 directors of community-based organizations or nonprofit organizations that provide human services;
8. 1 labor economist;
9. 1 social work consumer; and
10. 1 licensed clinical social worker.

(b) APPOINTMENT BY OTHER OFFICERS.—Four additional members shall be appointed to the Commission, with 1 member appointed by each of the following officers:
1. The Speaker of the House of Representatives.
2. The minority leader of the House of Representatives.
3. The majority leader of the Senate.
(4) The minority leader of the Senate.

(e) **ORGANIZATIONAL REPRESENTATION.**—To the extent practicable, members of the Commission shall be appointed—

(1) in a manner that ensures participation of individuals of different racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic, and class backgrounds and of different genders and sexual orientations; and

(2) from among individuals who demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concerns of the groups described in paragraph (1).

(d) **SELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—The Secretary shall appoint a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the Commission from among the members of the Commission.

(e) **PERIOD OF APPOINTMENT; VACANCIES.**—Members shall be appointed for the life of the Commission. Any vacancy in the Commission shall not affect the powers of the Commission and shall be filled in the same manner as the original appointment not later than 60 days after the date of vacancy.

(f) **SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall hold its first meeting not later than 6 weeks after the date on which the final member of the Commission
is appointed, and subsequent meetings shall be held at the
call of the Chairperson.

SEC. 103. DUTIES.

(a) STUDY.—The Commission shall conduct a com-
prehensive study to examine and assess—

(1) the professional capacity of the social work
workforce to successfully serve and respond to the
increasing biopsychosocial needs of individuals,
groups, and communities in areas related to—

(A) aging;

(B) child welfare;

(C) military and veterans affairs;

(D) mental and behavioral health and dis-
ability;

(E) criminal justice and correctional sys-
tems;

(F) health and other issues affecting
women and families; and

(G) other topics identified by the Commis-

(2) workforce challenges facing the profession
of social work, including high educational debt, lack
of fair market compensation, the need to translate
social work research to practice, the need to improve
social worker safety, the need to develop State-level
social work licensure policies and reciprocity agreements for social workers providing services across State lines, the lack of diversity in the social work profession, and any other issue determined by the Secretary to be appropriate;

(3) the effect of such challenges on the recruitment and retention of social workers;

(4) the effect of such challenges and of social worker shortages on the needs of clients served by social workers; and

(5) the advisability of establishing grants to provide direct assistance to local governments to encourage the engagement of social workers in social service programs.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the Commission’s first meeting, the Commission shall submit a report to the Secretary and to Congress containing specific findings and conclusions regarding the need to recruit and retain social workers, to conduct research on the social work profession, and to reinvest in the profession. The report shall include recommendations and strategies for corrective actions to ensure a robust social work workforce capable of keeping up with the demand for services. The Commission may provide to the Secretary and to Congress any additional findings or rec-
omendations considered by the Commission to be impor-
tant.

SEC. 104. POWERS.

(a) POWERS.—In carrying out the duties of the Com-
mission, the Commission shall have the power to—

(1) hold hearings, take testimony, receive evi-
dence, administer oaths, and sit and act at such
times and places as the Commission considers advis-
able;

(2) enter into contracts; and

(3) consult, to the extent that the Commission
determines that such consultation is necessary or
useful, with Federal agencies that include—

(A) agencies within the Department of
Health and Human Services, including the Ad-
ministration for Children and Families, the Ad-
ministration on Aging, the Agency for
Healthcare Research and Quality, the Centers
for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers
for Medicare & Medicaid Services, the Health
Resources and Services Administration, the In-
dian Health Service, the National Institutes of
Health, and the Substance Abuse and Mental
Health Services Administration;
(B) the Social Security Administration;

and

(C) the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Education, Homeland Security, Labor, Justice, State, and Veterans Affairs.

(b) COOPERATION WITH THE COMMISSION.—The agencies described in subsection (a)(3) shall cooperate with, and provide counsel to, the Commission to the greatest extent practicable.

SEC. 105. COMPENSATION.

(a) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—The members of the Commission shall not receive compensation for the performance of services for the Commission, but shall be provided travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of Federal agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Commission.

(b) VOLUNTARY AND UNCOMPENSATED SERVICES.—Notwithstanding section 1342 of title 31, United States Code, the Secretary may accept the voluntary and uncompensated services of members of the Commission.

(c) DETAIL OF GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES.—Any Federal Government employee may be detailed to the
Commission without reimbursement, and such detail shall be without interruption or loss of civil service status or privilege.

SEC. 106. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate 30 days after the date on which the Commission submits the report under section 103(b).

TITLE II—REINVESTMENT GRANT PROGRAMS TO SUPPORT SOCIAL WORK PROFESSION

SEC. 201. WORKPLACE IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

(a) Grants Authorized.—The Secretary shall award grants to 4 eligible entities described in subsection (d) to assist the entities in carrying out a workplace improvement program to address concerns for the social work profession, including caseloads, compensation, social worker safety, supervision, and working conditions.

(b) Equal Amounts.—The Secretary shall award to each of the 4 grant recipients under this section $1,000,000 per fiscal year for 4 consecutive fiscal years, beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.
(c) Grants to State or Local Governments.— At least 2 of the grant recipients under this section shall be agencies of State or local governments.

(d) Eligibility Requirements.— An entity eligible for a grant under this section shall—

(1) work in a social work capacity;

(2) demonstrate that the entity needs to improve in 1 or more of the workplace concern areas described in subsection (a);

(3) provide services to individuals of different racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic, and class backgrounds, and different genders and sexual orientations;

(4) demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concerns of the groups described in paragraph (3); and

(5) employ individuals who represent themselves as competent to provide social work services only within the boundaries of such individuals’ education, training, licenses, certification, professional case consultation, supervised experience, or other relevant professional experience.

(e) Priority.— In selecting grant recipients under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities that—
(1) have proven to be fiscally responsible, administratively capable, and otherwise equipped to oversee and monitor a workplace improvement program under this section;

(2) are knowledgeable about relevant social work workforce trends; and

(3) have not less than 2 years of experience carrying out workplace improvement activities.

(f) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated $16,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019 to carry out this section.

SEC. 202. RESEARCH GRANTS.

(a) Grants Authorized.—The Secretary shall award grants to 25 social workers who hold a doctoral degree in social work for postdoctoral research in social work—

(1) to further the knowledge base about effective social work interventions; and

(2) to promote usable strategies to translate research into practice across diverse community settings and service systems.

(b) Equal Amounts.—The Secretary shall award to each of the 25 grant recipients under this section $50,000 per fiscal year for 4 consecutive fiscal years, beginning
with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) Eligibility Requirements.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, a social worker shall—

(1) demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concerns of individuals from different racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic, and class backgrounds, and different genders and sexual orientations;

(2) represent themselves as competent to provide social work services only within the boundaries of their education, training, licenses, certification, professional case consultation, supervised experience, or other relevant professional experience; and

(3) hold a doctoral degree in social work.

(d) Minority Representation.—Not less than 10 of the grant recipients under this section shall be employed by a historically Black college or university or minority-serving institution.

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There are authorized to be appropriated $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019 to the Secretary to carry out this section.
SEC. 203. EDUCATION AND TRAINING GRANTS.

(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary shall award grants to 20 eligible institutions of higher education to support the recruitment and education of social work students in baccalaureate, master’s, and doctoral degree programs and the professional development of social work faculty.

(b) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award to each of the 20 grant recipients under this section $200,000 per fiscal year for 4 consecutive fiscal years, beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, an institution shall demonstrate that—

(1) the institution enrolls social work students from different racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic, and class backgrounds, and different genders and sexual orientations; and

(2) the institution has knowledge and understanding of the concerns of the groups described in paragraph (1).

(d) INSTITUTIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Not less than 4 of the grant recipients under this section shall be historically Black colleges or universities or other minority-serving institutions.
(e) **Priority.**—In selecting grant recipients under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to institutions of higher education that—

1. are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education;
2. have a graduation rate of not less than 80 percent for social work students; and
3. exhibit an ability to recruit social workers from, and place social workers in, areas with a high need and high demand population.

(f) **Authorization of Appropriations.**—There are authorized to be appropriated $16,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019 to carry out this section.

**Sec. 204. Community-Based Programs of Excellence Grants.**

(a) **Grants Authorized.**—The Secretary shall award grants to 6 eligible covered entities to test and replicate effective social work interventions.

(b) **Covered Entity.**—For purposes of this section, the term “covered entity” means—

1. a State or local government or a department, agency, special-purpose district, or other instrumentality of a State or local government, that is
carrying out a community-based program of excellence; or

(2) a nonprofit organization that is carrying out a program of excellence.

(c) EQUAL AMOUNTS.—The Secretary shall award to each of the 6 grant recipients under this section $500,000 per fiscal year for 3 consecutive fiscal years, beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible for a grant under this section, a covered entity shall—

(1) carry out programs in the areas of aging, child welfare, military and veterans issues, mental and behavioral health and disability, criminal justice and correction systems, or health and other issues affecting women and families;

(2) provide services to individuals of different racial, ethnic, cultural, geographic, religious, linguistic, and class backgrounds, and different genders and sexual orientations;

(3) demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the concerns of the groups described in paragraph (2);

(4) demonstrate a record of active participation of social workers in the programs of the entity; and
(5) employ individuals who represent themselves as competent to provide social work services only within the boundaries of their education, training, licenses, certification, professional case consultation, supervised experience, or other relevant professional experience.

(e) PRIORITY.—In selecting the grant recipients under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible covered entities that—

(1) have demonstrated successful and measurable outcomes that the Secretary considers worthy of replication;

(2) have been in operation for at least 2 years; and

(3) work with high need and high demand populations.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated $9,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019 to carry out this section.

SEC. 205. NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall enter into a contract with a national social work entity such as the National Association of Social Workers or the Council on Social Work Education. Such national social work entity shall—
(1) have experience in coordinating the transfer of information and ideas among entities engaged in social work research, practice, education, and policy-making; and

(2) maintain relationships with Federal entities, social work degree-granting institutions of higher education, departments of social work within such institutions, and organizations and agencies that employ social workers.

(b) GENERAL DUTIES.—The entity with which the Secretary enters into a contract under subsection (a) (referred to in this section as the “coordinating center”) shall—

(1) organize, collect, and report to the Secretary and to Congress data and information related to the social work profession;

(2) serve as a clearinghouse; and

(3) coordinate activities with the entities, institutions, departments, organizations, and agencies described in subsection (a)(2).

(c) COLLABORATION.—The coordinating center shall work with institutions of higher education, research entities, and organizations with social work practice settings, including government entities, military departments, elementary and secondary schools, social services agencies,
private practices, inpatient and outpatient mental health service providers, child welfare agencies, correctional facilities, and nursing homes, to identify key research areas, establish research fellowships, and organize appropriate mentorship and professional development efforts.

(d) Specific Activities of the Coordinating Center.—The coordinating center shall—

(1) engage in activities to build on the efforts of the National Association of Social Workers National Center for Workforce Studies;

(2) collect, coordinate, monitor, and distribute data and information on best practices and findings regarding the activities funded by grants awarded under sections 201 through 204;

(3) prepare and submit to the Secretary a report that includes recommendations regarding the need to recruit new social workers, retain current social workers, conduct social work research, and reinvest in the profession of social work;

(4) demonstrate cultural competency and promote the participation of diverse groups; and

(5) in collaboration with the Secretary, select research topics to further the goals of this section, establish new research fellowships to conduct such research, and identify and appoint qualified individ-
uals to such fellowship positions from among individ-
uals who hold master’s or doctoral degrees in social
work or are enrolled in master’s or doctoral degree
programs at schools of social work.

(e) Powers of Secretary.—The Secretary may
conduct and authorize such other activities as the Sec-
etary considers appropriate to carry out this section.

(f) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
are authorized to be appropriated $1,000,000 to carry out
this section for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2020.

SEC. 206. MULTIMEDIA OUTREACH CAMPAIGN.

(a) Development and Issuance of Public Serv-
ice Announcements.—The Secretary shall develop and
issue public service announcements that advertise and pro-
mote the social work profession, highlight the advantages
and rewards of social work, and encourage individuals to
enter the social work profession.

(b) Method.—The public service announcements de-
scribed in subsection (a) shall be broadcast through appro-
priate media outlets, including television or radio, in a
manner intended to reach as wide and diverse of an audi-
ence as possible.

(e) Authorization of Appropriations.—There
are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
necessary to carry out this section for each of fiscal years 2016 through 2019.