

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1506

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of education debt reduction available for health care professionals employed by the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 10, 2017

Mr. O'ROURKE (for himself, Mr. BOST, Ms. JUDY CHU of California, and Ms. KUSTER of New Hampshire) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs

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## A BILL

To amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the maximum amount of education debt reduction available for health care professionals employed by the Veterans Health Administration, and for other purposes.

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 “VA Health Care Pro-  
5 vider Education Debt Relief Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The Veterans Health Administration suffers  
2 from personnel shortages.

3           (2) It is essential that the Secretary of Vet-  
4 erans Affairs work to correct such shortages, focus-  
5 ing on health professional shortage areas designated  
6 by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

7           (3) To correct such shortages, the Secretary of  
8 Veterans Affairs should aggressively exercise the au-  
9 thority under section 7683 of title 38, United States  
10 Code, to reduce the education debt of health care  
11 providers employed by the Veterans Health Adminis-  
12 tration.

13 **SEC. 3. INCREASED MAXIMUM EDUCATION DEBT REDUC-**  
14 **TION FOR HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS**  
15 **EMPLOYED BY THE VETERANS HEALTH AD-**  
16 **MINISTRATION.**

17       Section 7683(d) of title 38, United States Code, is  
18 amended—

19           (1) in paragraph (1)—

20               (A) by striking “\$120,000” and inserting  
21 “\$150,000”; and

22               (B) by striking “\$24,000” and inserting  
23 “\$30,000”; and

24           (2) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking all that fol-  
25 lows “who” and inserting “works in a geographical

1 area that the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
2 ices has designated under section 332 of the Public  
3 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e) as a health  
4 professional shortage area with regards to the spe-  
5 cialty or assignment of the participant.”.

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