

115TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2830

To reauthorize the rural emergency medical services training and equipment assistance program under section 330J of the Public Health Service Act.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 10, 2018

Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. ROBERTS, Ms. BALDWIN, and Ms. STABENOW) 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 reauthorize the rural emergency medical services training and equipment assistance program under section 330J of the Public Health Service Act.

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 “Supporting and Im-  
5 proving Rural EMS Needs Act of 2018” or the “SIREN  
6 Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF RURAL EMERGENCY MED-**  
2 **ICAL SERVICES TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT**  
3 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

4 Section 330J of the Public Health Service Act (42  
5 U.S.C. 254e-15) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “in rural  
7 areas” and inserting “in rural areas or to residents  
8 of rural areas”; and

9 (2) by striking subsections (b) through (g) and  
10 inserting the following:

11 “(b) **ELIGIBILITY; APPLICATION.**—To be eligible to  
12 receive grant under this section, an entity shall—

13 “(1) be—

14 “(A) an emergency medical services agency  
15 operated by a local or tribal government (in-  
16 cluding fire-based and non-fire based); or

17 “(B) an emergency medical services agency  
18 that is described in section 501(c) of the Inter-  
19 nal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax  
20 under section 501(a) of such Code; and

21 “(2) submit an application to the Secretary at  
22 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
23 formation as the Secretary may require.

24 “(c) **USE OF FUNDS.**—An entity shall use amounts  
25 received through a grant under subsection (a) to—

1           “(1) recruit and retain emergency medical serv-  
2           ices personnel, which may include volunteer per-  
3           sonnel;

4           “(2) train emergency medical services personnel  
5           as appropriate to obtain and maintain licenses and  
6           certifications relevant to service in an emergency  
7           medical services agency described in subsection  
8           (b)(1);

9           “(3) conduct courses that qualify graduates to  
10          serve in an emergency medical services agency de-  
11          scribed in subsection (b)(1) in accordance with State  
12          and local requirements;

13          “(4) fund specific training to meet Federal or  
14          State licensing or certification requirements;

15          “(5) develop new ways to educate emergency  
16          health care providers through the use of technology-  
17          enhanced educational methods;

18          “(6) acquire emergency medical services equip-  
19          ment; or

20          “(7) acquire personal protective equipment for  
21          emergency medical services personnel as required by  
22          the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

23          “(d) GRANT AMOUNTS.—Each grant awarded under  
24          this section shall be in an amount not to exceed \$200,000.

25          “(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1 “(1) The term ‘emergency medical services’—

2 “(A) means resources used by a public or  
3 private nonprofit licensed entity to deliver med-  
4 ical care outside of a medical facility under  
5 emergency conditions that occur as a result of  
6 the condition of the patient; and

7 “(B) includes services delivered (either on  
8 a compensated or volunteer basis) by an emer-  
9 gency medical services provider or other pro-  
10 vider that is licensed or certified by the State  
11 involved as an emergency medical technician, a  
12 paramedic, or an equivalent professional (as de-  
13 termined by the State).

14 “(2) The term ‘rural area’ means—

15 “(A) a nonmetropolitan statistical area;

16 “(B) an area designated as a rural area by  
17 any law or regulation of a State; or

18 “(C) a rural census tract of a metropolitan  
19 statistical area (as determined under the most  
20 recent rural urban commuting area code as set  
21 forth by the Office of Management and Budg-  
22 et).

23 “(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be  
2           appropriated to carry out this section \$20,000,000  
3           for each fiscal years 2019 through 2023.

4           “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary  
5           may use not more than 10 percent of the amount  
6           appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) for a fiscal  
7           year for the administrative expenses of carrying out  
8           this section.”.

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