

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3016

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve essential oral health care for low-income and other underserved individuals by breaking down barriers to care, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 6, 2018

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. HIRONO, and Mr. SCOTT) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve essential oral health care for low-income and other underserved individuals by breaking down barriers to care, 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 “Action for Dental
5 Health Act of 2018”.

1 **SEC. 2. VOLUNTEER DENTAL PROJECTS AND ACTION FOR**
2 **DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.**

3 Section 317M of the Public Health Service Act (42
4 U.S.C. 247b–14) is amended—

5 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as
6 subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

7 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
8 lowing new subsection:

9 “(e) ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
11 tion with the Director of the Centers for Disease
12 Control and Prevention and the Administrator of the
13 Health Resources and Service Administration, may
14 award grants to or enter into contracts with eligible
15 entities to collaborate with State or local public offi-
16 cials and other stakeholders to develop and imple-
17 ment initiatives to—

18 “(A) improve oral health education and
19 dental disease prevention, including—

20 “(i) through community-wide preven-
21 tion programs, such as programs that pro-
22 mote the use of dental sealants and fluo-
23 ride varnish; and

24 “(ii) by increasing public awareness
25 and education related to oral health and
26 dental disease prevention; or

1 “(B) reduce barriers to the provision of
2 dental services.

3 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the
4 term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that is—

5 “(A) a State or local dental association;

6 “(B) a State oral health program;

7 “(C) a dental education, dental hygiene, or
8 postdoctoral dental education program accredited
9 by the Commission on Dental Accreditation;
10 or

11 “(D) a community-based organization
12 that—

13 “(i) partners with an academic institution;
14

15 “(ii) is exempt from tax under section
16 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of
17 1986; and

18 “(iii) partners with public and private
19 stakeholders to facilitate the provision of
20 dental services for underserved populations.”; and
21

22 (3) in subsection (g), as redesignated by paragraph (1),
23 by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2001 through
24

1 2005” and inserting “\$18,000,000 for each of the
2 fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

3 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS.**

4 Section 340G of the Public Health Service Act (42
5 U.S.C. 256g) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (b)(5)—

7 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
8 “and” at the end; and

9 (B) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(D) the establishment of dental homes for
11 children and adults, including for the aged,
12 blind, and disabled populations;

13 “(E) the establishment of initiatives to re-
14 duce the use of emergency departments by indi-
15 viduals who seek dental services more appro-
16 priately delivered in a dental primary care set-
17 ting; and

18 “(F) the provision of dental care to nurs-
19 ing home residents;”; and

20 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “\$25,000,000
21 for the 5-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year
22 2008” and inserting “\$13,903,000 for each of fiscal
23 years 2018 through 2022”.

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