

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1656

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to support initiatives focused on addressing pediatric public health disparities in children's hospitals graduate medical education programs.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 8, 2019

Mr. SMUCKER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants to support initiatives focused on addressing pediatric public health disparities in children's hospitals graduate medical education programs.

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 “Strengthening our Pe-
5 diatric Workforce Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) Our Nation is facing a critical physician
2 shortage.

3 (2) The predicted supply of pediatric medical
4 specialists is not expected to meet demand over the
5 next ten years, which may make it more difficult to
6 provide children with complex or special health con-
7 ditions the care they need.

8 (3) Research reflects that poverty can have a
9 negative impact on the long-term care outcomes of
10 children. Poverty conditions can contribute to poor
11 nutrition, chronic illness, obesity and delayed devel-
12 opment. Ensuring pediatric physicians incorporate
13 anti-poverty initiatives into their medical training
14 can help improve the health of children living in pov-
15 erty.

16 (4) The purpose of this Act is to provide addi-
17 tional assistance to the Children's Hospital Graduate
18 Medical Education (CHGME) program for the pur-
19 pose of incorporating initiatives to address pediatric
20 health disparities.

1 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM TO INCORPORATE PEDIATRIC**
2 **ANTI-POVERTY INITIATIVES INTO RESIDENT**
3 **TRAINING.**

4 Section 340E of the Public Health Service Act (42
5 U.S.C. 256e) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
6 lowing new subsection:

7 “(i) GRANT PROGRAM TO INCORPORATE PEDIATRIC
8 ANTI-POVERTY INITIATIVES INTO RESIDENT TRAIN-
9 ING.—

10 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting
11 through the Administrator of the Health Resources
12 and Services Administration, may, for a year (begin-
13 ning with 2020), make grants to children’s hospitals
14 described in paragraph (2) with approved graduate
15 medical residency training programs that are other-
16 wise receiving funding under this section for such
17 year, for the startup costs associated with developing
18 and incorporating initiatives that address pediatric
19 health disparities, including access to care, poverty,
20 opioid overuse, food insecurity, and child abuse.

21 “(2) CHILDREN’S HOSPITALS DESCRIBED.—For
22 purposes of this subsection, a children’s hospital de-
23 scribed in this paragraph is, with respect to a year,
24 a children’s hospital that is—

1 “(A) located in an area designated as a
2 health professional shortage area under section
3 332;

4 “(B) receiving payments pursuant to sub-
5 section (h) for such year; and

6 “(C) not receiving a bonus payment under
7 subsection (h)(6)(B) for such year.

8 “(3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
9 There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out
10 this subsection, not more than \$10,000,000 for each
11 of fiscal years 2020 through 2027.”.

○