

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6302

To amend the Public Health Service Act to respond to the shortage of allied health professionals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 19, 2020

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

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to respond to the shortage of allied health professionals, 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 “Allied Health Per-
5 sonnel Shortage Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. RESPONSE TO SHORTAGE OF ALLIED HEALTH PRO-**
7 **FESSIONALS.**

8 (a) SCHOLARSHIPS AND LOAN REPAYMENTS.—The
9 Public Health Service Act is amended by inserting after
10 section 755 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 294e) the following:

1 **“SEC. 755A. SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PRO-**
2 **GRAM FOR ALLIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a
4 program of entering into agreements with individuals
5 under which—

6 “(1) the Secretary agrees—

7 “(A) to award a scholarship to the indi-
8 vidual to pursue a degree in a science relating
9 to health care at a school of allied health; or

10 “(B) to pay the principal, interest, and re-
11 lated expenses on government and commercial
12 loans received by the individual to pursue such
13 a degree at a school of allied health; and

14 “(2) the individual agrees to complete a period
15 of obligated service as an allied health professional
16 in—

17 “(A) a health professional shortage area
18 designated under section 332; or

19 “(B) an area designated by the Secretary
20 for purpose of this section as having a shortage
21 of allied health professionals.

22 “(b) APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—The Secretary shall
23 model—

24 “(1) the scholarship program under subsection
25 (a) on the provisions applicable to the National

1 Health Service Corps Scholarship Program under
2 subpart III of part D of title III; and

3 “(2) the loan repayment program under sub-
4 section (a) on the provisions applicable to the Na-
5 tional Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Pro-
6 gram under such subpart.

7 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
9 \$25,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2021 through
10 2025.”.

11 (b) RESPONSE TO SHORTAGE OF QUALIFYING AL-
12 LIED HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—

13 (1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 1 year after the
14 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of
15 Health and Human Services, in collaboration with
16 the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, shall—

17 (A) identify categories of qualifying allied
18 health professionals which are in shortage; and

19 (B) annually publish a list of such cat-
20 egories in the Federal Register.

21 (2) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

22 (A) The term “allied health professional”
23 has the meaning given to the term “allied
24 health professionals” in section 799B(5) of the
25 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p(5)).

1 (B) The term “qualifying allied health pro-
2 fessional” means an allied health professional
3 who is authorized to provide health care serv-
4 ices under the Medicare program under title
5 XVIII of the Social Security Act and under the
6 Medicaid programs under title XIX of such Act.

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