

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 6979

To amend the Public Health Service Act to designate certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs as health professional shortage areas, and for other purposes.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2020

Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. GALLAGHER) introduced the following bill;  
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

---

## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to designate certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs as health professional shortage areas, 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 “Veterans Access to  
5 Care Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DESIGNATION OF MEDICAL FACILITIES OF THE DE-**  
2 **PARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AS**  
3 **HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREAS.**

4 (a) PHSA.—Section 332(a)(1) of the Public Health  
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a)(1)) is amended in the sec-  
6 ond sentence by inserting “and medical facilities of the  
7 Department of Veterans Affairs (including State homes,  
8 as defined in section 101(19) of title 38, United States  
9 Code)” after “(42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)),”.

10 (b) CONCURRENT BENEFITS.—

11 (1) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 338A(b)  
12 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l(b))  
13 is amended—

14 (A) in paragraph (3), by striking “and”;

15 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking the pe-  
16 riod and inserting “; and”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
18 paragraph:

19 “(5) not be participating in the Department of  
20 Veterans Affairs Health Professionals Educational  
21 Assistance Program under chapter 76 of title 38,  
22 United States Code.”.

23 (2) DEBT REDUCTION PROGRAM.—Section  
24 338B(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42  
25 U.S.C. 254l–1(b)) is amended—

26 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “and”;

1 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking the pe-  
2 riod and inserting “; and”; and

3 (C) by adding at the end the following new  
4 paragraph:

5 “(4) not be participating in the Department of  
6 Veterans Affairs Health Professionals Educational  
7 Assistance Program under chapter 76 of title 38,  
8 United States Code.”.

9 (c) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the National  
10 Health Service Corps Program under subpart II of part  
11 D of title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
12 254d et seq.), the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
13 ices shall consult with the Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
14 with respect to health professional shortage areas that are  
15 medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs  
16 (including State homes, as defined in section 101(19) of  
17 title 38, United States Code).

18 (d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
19 this section shall take effect on the date that is 90 days  
20 after the date of the enactment of this Act.

○