

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 7801

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to State, local, and Tribal public health departments to train and equip Federal public health reserve corps personnel to assist with testing, contact tracing, and treatment of COVID–19, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 27, 2020

Ms. FUDGE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, Armed Services, and Transportation and Infrastructure, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to State, local, and Tribal public health departments to train and equip Federal public health reserve corps personnel to assist with testing, contact tracing, and treatment of COVID–19, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Pandemic Community
3 Reserve and Public Health Response Act”.

4 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO INCREASE FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH**
5 **RESERVE CORPS PERSONNEL.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
7 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health
8 and Human Services shall—

9 (1) award grants to State, local, and Tribal
10 public health departments to train and equip public
11 health and medical personnel to serve as Federal
12 public health reserve corps personnel to assist with
13 testing, contact tracing, and treatment of COVID–
14 19;

15 (2) reactivate retired personnel of any such
16 corps to assist with such testing, contact tracing,
17 and treatment of COVID–19; and

18 (3) in consultation with the Secretary of Labor,
19 award grants to local workforce development boards
20 established under section 107 of the Workforce In-
21 novation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3122) to
22 develop transition plans (including career exposure,
23 career planning, and career pathways) and transfer-
24 able credits and certifications for Federal public
25 health reserve corps personnel to pursue further
26 service in a health-related career.

1 (b) FUNDS.—A State, local, or Tribal health depart-
2 ment that receives a grant under this section may use
3 funds received through the grant awarded under sub-
4 section (a)(1) to establish partnerships with medical train-
5 ing and public health programs, such as medical schools,
6 nursing schools, respiratory therapy programs, and com-
7 munity-based organizations, to recruit individuals to serve
8 as Federal public health reserve corps personnel.

9 (c) PRIORITY.—In establishing partnerships under
10 subsection (b), a State, local, or Tribal health department
11 that receives a grant under this section shall give priority
12 to institutions eligible to receive funding under section 371
13 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q).

14 (d) TRAINING.—The Secretary of Health and Human
15 Services shall establish, in consultation with the Secretary
16 of Defense, a national training program (in digital and
17 in-person formats) for individuals serving as Federal pub-
18 lic health reserve corps personnel with respect to respond-
19 ing to COVID–19, including necessary surge capacity and
20 activation on short notice in local communities, including
21 hot spot areas with 100 or more COVID–19 hospital ad-
22 missions. Any certification received for completion of any
23 such training shall not supersede any training required
24 under State law for public health personnel.

1 (e) REPORTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date
2 on which the emergency period (as defined in section
3 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
4 1320b–5(g)(1)(B))) ends, and annually thereafter, the
5 Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to
6 the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House
7 of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Edu-
8 cation, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the
9 state of the Federal public health reserve corps, includ-
10 ing—

11 (1) the rate of participation by members of ra-
12 cial and ethnic minority groups in such corps;

13 (2) specific occupations of corps personnel;

14 (3) careers attained after service in the corps;
15 and

16 (4) specific recommendations on the amount of
17 funding necessary for successful deployment of Fed-
18 eral health reserve corps personnel during public
19 health emergencies.

20 (f) FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH RESERVE CORP.—In
21 this section, the term “Federal public health reserve
22 corps” includes—

23 (1) Federal public health and medical personnel
24 under the authority of the Secretary, including the
25 Ready Reserve Corps, the Regular Corps, the Na-

1 tional Disaster Medical System, the Medical Reserve
2 Corps, and the Emergency System for Advance Reg-
3 istration of Volunteer Health Professionals;

4 (2) personnel of the Federal Emergency Man-
5 agement Agency appointed under section 306(c) of
6 the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emer-
7 gency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5149);

8 (3) personnel of the Pandemic Community Re-
9 serve Corps; and

10 (4) members of the National Guard.

11 (g) STATE DEFINED.—In this section, the term
12 “State” has the meaning given that term in section 101
13 of title 38, United States Code.

14 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
15 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
16 \$25,000,000,000 to remain available until expended.

17 **SEC. 3. GRANTS TO ESTABLISH PANDEMIC COMMUNITY RE-**
18 **SERVE CORPS.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the
20 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health
21 and Human Services, in consultation with the Office of
22 Minority Health and Health Equity of the Centers for Dis-
23 ease Control and Prevention, shall award grants to State,
24 local, and Tribal public health departments to establish
25 and operate a Pandemic Community Reserve Corps within

1 the jurisdiction of such State, local, or Tribal public health
2 department for the purposes of—

3 (1) increasing diversity in recruitment of re-
4 serve corps personnel;

5 (2) ensuring a locally-sourced public health
6 workforce to supplement the existing State and Fed-
7 eral public health infrastructure; and

8 (3) assisting with testing, contact tracing, and
9 treatment of COVID-19.

10 (b) CONDITIONS.—The Secretary of Health and
11 Human Services shall, as a condition on the receipt of a
12 grant under this section, require that a State, local, or
13 Tribal public health department that receives a grant
14 under this section—

15 (1) requires that personnel of the Pandemic
16 Community Reserve Corps complete training under
17 the national program established under section 1(d);
18 and

19 (2) in establishing and operating a Pandemic
20 Community Reserve Corps, gives priority to dis-
21 located workers, the underemployed, youth, veterans,
22 and individuals with barriers to employment.

23 (c) REPORTS.—

24 (1) REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—Not later than
25 1 year after the date on which the first grant is

1 awarded under this section, and annually thereafter,
2 each State, local, and Tribal public health depart-
3 ment receiving such a grant shall submit to the Sec-
4 retary of Health and Human Services a report on
5 the state of the Pandemic Community Reserve Corps
6 within the jurisdiction of such State, local, or Tribal
7 public health department, including—

8 (A) the rate of participation by members of
9 racial and ethnic minority groups in such corps;

10 (B) specific occupations of corps personnel;

11 (C) careers attained after service in the
12 corps; and

13 (D) specific recommendations on the
14 amount of funding necessary for successful de-
15 ployment of Pandemic Community Reserve
16 Corps personnel during public health emer-
17 gencies.

18 (2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1
19 year after the date on which the emergency period
20 (as defined in section 1135(g)(1)(B) of the Social
21 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b–5(g)(1)(B))) ends,
22 and annually thereafter, the Secretary of Health and
23 Human Services shall submit to the Committee on
24 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representa-
25 tives and the Committee on Health, Education,

1 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate a report on the
2 state of the Pandemic Community Reserve Corps re-
3 ceiving funding pursuant to this section, including
4 the information specified in each of subparagraphs
5 (A) through (D) of paragraph (1).

6 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

7 (1) LOCALLY-SOURCED.—The term “locally-
8 sourced” means, with respect to personnel of a Pan-
9 demic Community Reserve Corps established pursu-
10 ant to subsection (a), individuals residing within the
11 community or communities served by that Pandemic
12 Community Reserve Corps that reflect the diversity
13 of such community or communities.

14 (2) STATE.—The term “State” has the mean-
15 ing given that term in section 101 of title 38, United
16 States Code.

17 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
19 \$50,000,000,000 to remain available until expended.

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