

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1668

To clarify that participants in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program may be assigned to serve in pediatric inpatient mental health facilities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 23 (legislative day, MAY 22), 2019

Mr. TESTER introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To clarify that participants in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program may be assigned to serve in pediatric inpatient mental health facilities.

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 “Defending Access to
5 Mental Health Care Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PROVISION OF PRIMARY CARE HEALTH PROFES-**
2 **SIONALS AT PEDIATRIC INPATIENT MENTAL**
3 **HEALTH FACILITIES.**

4 (a) **HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE AREA MED-**
5 **ICAL FACILITIES.**—Section 332(a)(2)(A) of the Public
6 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e(a)(2)(A)) is amended
7 by inserting “pediatric inpatient mental health facility
8 that is certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid
9 Services,” after “community mental health center,”.

10 (b) **ASSIGNMENT OF CORPS MEMBERS.**—Section
11 338B(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
12 254l–1(a)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and” and
14 inserting “;”;

15 (2) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
16 graph (3); and

17 (3) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(2) an adequate supply of mental health pro-
20 fessionals at pediatric inpatient mental health facili-
21 ties that are certified by the Centers for Medicare &
22 Medicaid Services; and”.

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