

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3437

To reauthorize certain programs regarding rural health care.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11, 2020

Mrs. LOEFFLER (for herself and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-
cation, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To reauthorize certain programs regarding rural health care.

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 “Improving Care in
5 Rural America Reauthorization Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES OUTREACH,**
7 **RURAL HEALTH NETWORK DEVELOPMENT,**
8 **AND SMALL HEALTH CARE PROVIDER QUAL-**
9 **ITY IMPROVEMENT GRANT PROGRAMS.**

10 Section 330A of the Public Health Service Act (42
11 U.S.C. 254c) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (d)(2)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “es-
3 sential” and inserting “basic”; and

4 (B) in subparagraph (B)—

5 (i) in the matter preceding clause (i),
6 by inserting “to” after “grants”; and

7 (ii) in clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), by
8 striking “to” each place such term ap-
9 pears;

10 (2) in subsection (e)—

11 (A) in paragraph (1)—

12 (i) by inserting “improving and” after
13 “outreach by”;

14 (ii) by inserting “, through community
15 engagement and evidence-based or innova-
16 tive, evidence-informed models” before the
17 period of the first sentence; and

18 (iii) by striking “3 years” and insert-
19 ing “5 years”; and

20 (B) in paragraph (2)—

21 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
22 graph (A), by inserting “shall” after “enti-
23 ty”;

24 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
25 “shall be a rural public or rural nonprofit

1 private entity” and inserting “be an entity
2 proposing to serve rural underserved popu-
3 lations”;

4 (iii) in subparagraphs (B) and (C), by
5 striking “shall” each place such term ap-
6 pears; and

7 (iv) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (I) in the matter preceding clause

9 (i), by inserting “that” after “mem-
10 bers”; and

11 (II) in clauses (i) and (ii), by

12 striking “that” each place such term
13 appears;

14 (3) in subsection (f)—

15 (A) in paragraph (1)—

16 (i) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (I) in the matter preceding clause

18 (i), by striking “promote, through
19 planning and implementation, the de-
20 velopment of integrated health care
21 networks that have combined the
22 functions of the entities participating
23 in the networks” and inserting “plan
24 and implement integrated health care
25 networks that collaborate”; and

1 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
2 “essential health care services” and
3 inserting “basic health care services
4 and associated health outcomes”; and
5 (ii) by amending subparagraph (B) to
6 read as follows:

7 “(B) GRANT PERIODS.—The Director may
8 award grants under this subsection for periods
9 of not more than 5 years.”; and

10 (B) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
12 graph (A), by inserting “shall” after “enti-
13 ty”;

14 (ii) in subparagraph (A), by striking
15 “shall be a rural public or rural nonprofit
16 private entity” and inserting “be an entity
17 proposing to serve rural underserved popu-
18 lations”;

19 (iii) in subparagraph (B)—

20 (I) in the matter preceding clause

21 (i)—

22 (aa) by striking “shall”; and

23 (bb) by inserting “that”
24 after “participants”; and

1 (II) in clauses (i) and (ii), by
2 striking “that” each place such term
3 appears; and

4 (iv) in subparagraph (C), by striking
5 “shall”;

6 (4) in subsection (g)—

7 (A) in paragraph (1)—

8 (i) by inserting “, including activities
9 related to increasing care coordination, en-
10 hancing chronic disease management, and
11 improving patient health outcomes” before
12 the period of the first sentence; and

13 (ii) by striking “3 years” and insert-
14 ing “5 years”; and

15 (B) in paragraph (2)—

16 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
17 graph (A), by inserting “shall” after “enti-
18 ty”;

19 (ii) in subparagraphs (A) and (B), by
20 striking “shall” each place such term ap-
21 pears; and

22 (iii) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by in-
23 serting “or regional” after “local”;

1 (5) in subsection (h)(3), in the matter pre-
2 ceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “, as appro-
3 priate,” after “the Secretary”;

4 (6) by amending subsection (i) to read as fol-
5 lows:

6 “(i) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date
7 of enactment of the Improving Care in Rural America Re-
8 authorization Act of 2020, and every 5 years thereafter,
9 the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee
10 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate
11 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
12 House of Representatives a report on the activities and
13 outcomes of the grant programs under subsections (e), (f),
14 and (g), including the impact of projects funded under
15 such programs on the health status of rural residents with
16 chronic conditions.”; and

17 (7) in subsection (j), by striking “\$45,000,000
18 for each of fiscal years 2008 through 2012” and in-
19 serting “\$79,500,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
20 through 2025”.

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