

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3759

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 8, 2021

Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. ARMSTRONG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, 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; FINDINGS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act of
6 2021”.

7 (b) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Physical therapists play an important role
2 in the prevention, treatment, or management of pain
3 for individuals, including those with substance use
4 disorders, or at risk of developing a substance use
5 disorder.

6 (2) Physical therapists are also playing an im-
7 portant role in the physical rehabilitation needs of
8 individuals who have developed chronic health condi-
9 tions as a result of COVID-19.

10 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS; PARTICIPA-**
11 **TION OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IN LOAN RE-**
12 **PAYMENT PROGRAM.**

13 (a) MISSION OF CORPS; DEFINITION OF PRIMARY
14 HEALTH SERVICES.—Section 331(a)(3)(D) of the Public
15 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(a)(3)(D)) is amended
16 by striking “or mental health,” and inserting “mental
17 health, or physical therapy,”.

18 (b) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 338B of
19 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l-1) is
20 amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “physical
22 therapists,” after “dentists,”;

23 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

24 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) by striking “, or be certified” and
2 inserting “; be certified”; and

3 (ii) by inserting before the semicolon
4 the following: “; or have a doctoral or mas-
5 ter’s degree in physical therapy”;

6 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
7 “physical therapy,” after “mental health,”; and

8 (C) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by inserting
9 “physical therapy,” after “dentistry,”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(i) ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN OTHER PRO-
12 GRAMS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to pro-
13 hibit any health care professional who is eligible to partici-
14 pate in the program under this section from participating
15 in any other loan repayment program established by the
16 Secretary for which such professional is eligible.”.

○