

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2676

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 SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 9, 2021

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

---

## 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.—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.”.

○