

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3422

To establish a grant program to support schools of medicine and schools of osteopathic medicine in underserved areas.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 16, 2021

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

A BILL

To establish a grant program to support schools of medicine and schools of osteopathic medicine in underserved areas.

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 “Expanding Medical
5 Education Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE AND SCHOOLS**
 2 **OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE IN UNDER-**
 3 **SERVED AREAS.**

4 Subpart II of part C of title VII of the Public Health
 5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293m et seq.) is amended by add-
 6 ing at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 749C. GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE AND**
 8 **SCHOOLS OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE IN UN-**
 9 **DERSERVED AREAS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
 11 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services
 12 Administration, may award grants to institutions of high-
 13 er education (including consortiums of such institutions)
 14 for the establishment, improvement, or expansion of a
 15 school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or a branch
 16 campus of a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine.

17 “(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients under
 18 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to any insti-
 19 tution of higher education (or consortium of such institu-
 20 tions) that—

21 “(1) proposes to use the grant for the establish-
 22 ment of a school of medicine or osteopathic medi-
 23 cine, or a branch campus of a school of medicine or
 24 osteopathic medicine, in an area—

25 “(A) in which no other such school is
 26 based; and

1 “(B) that is a medically underserved com-
 2 munity or a health professional shortage area;
 3 or

4 “(2) is a minority-serving institution described
 5 in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of
 6 1965.

7 “(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants under
 8 this section, the Secretary, to the extent practicable, may
 9 ensure equitable distribution of awards among the geo-
 10 graphical regions of the United States.

11 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An institution of higher edu-
 12 cation (or a consortium of such institutions)—

13 “(1) shall use grant amounts received under
 14 this section to—

15 “(A) recruit, enroll, and retain students,
 16 including individuals who are from disadvan-
 17 taged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic
 18 groups underrepresented among medical stu-
 19 dents and health professions), individuals from
 20 rural and underserved areas, low-income indi-
 21 viduals, and first generation college students, at
 22 a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine or
 23 branch campus of a school of medicine or osteo-
 24 pathic medicine; and

1 “(B) develop, implement, and expand cur-
 2 riculum that emphasizes care for rural and un-
 3 derserved populations, including accessible and
 4 culturally and linguistically appropriate care
 5 and services, at such school or branch campus;
 6 and

7 “(2) may use grant amounts received under this
 8 section to—

9 “(A) plan and construct—

10 “(i) a school of medicine or osteo-
 11 pathic medicine in an area in which no
 12 other such school is based; or

13 “(ii) a branch campus of a school of
 14 medicine or osteopathic medicine in an
 15 area in which no other such school is
 16 based;

17 “(B) plan, develop, and meet criteria for
 18 accreditation for a school of medicine or osteo-
 19 pathic medicine or branch campus of a school
 20 of medicine or osteopathic medicine;

21 “(C) hire faculty, including faculty from
 22 racial and ethnic groups who are underrep-
 23 resented among the medical and other health
 24 professions, and other staff to serve at such a
 25 school or branch campus;

1 “(D) support educational programs at such
2 a school or branch campus;

3 “(E) modernize and expand infrastructure
4 at such a school or branch campus; and

5 “(F) support other activities that the Sec-
6 retary determines further the establishment,
7 improvement, or expansion of a school of medi-
8 cine or osteopathic medicine or branch campus
9 of a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine.

10 “(e) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
11 under subsection (a), an institution of higher education
12 (or a consortium of such institutions), shall submit an ap-
13 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
14 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
15 quire, including a description of the institution’s or con-
16 sortium’s planned activities described in subsection (d).

17 “(f) REPORTING.—

18 “(1) REPORTS FROM ENTITIES.—Each institu-
19 tion of higher education, or consortium of such insti-
20 tutions, awarded a grant under this section shall
21 submit an annual report to the Secretary on the ac-
22 tivities conducted under such grant, and other infor-
23 mation as the Secretary may require.

24 “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5
25 years after the date of enactment of this section and

every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives a report that provides a summary of the activities and outcomes associated with grants made under this section. Such reports shall include—

“(A) a list of awardees, including their primary geographic location, and location of any school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or a branch campus of school of medicine or osteopathic medicine that was established, improved, or expanded under this program;

“(B) the total number of students (including the number of students from racial and ethnic groups underrepresented among medical students and health professions, low-income students, and first generation college students) who—

“(i) are enrolled at or who have graduated from any school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or a branch campus of school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, that was established, improved, or expanded under this program, deidentified

and disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, sex, geographic region, disability status, and other relevant factors, to the extent such information is available; and

“(ii) who subsequently participate in an accredited internship or medical residency program upon graduation from any school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or a branch campus of a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, that was established, improved, or expanded under this program, deidentified and disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age, sex, geographic region, disability status, medical specialty pursued, and other relevant factors, to the extent such information is available;

“(C) the effects of such program on the health care provider workforce, including any impact on demographic representation disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and sex, and the fields or specialties pursued by students who have graduated from any school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or a branch campus of school of medicine or osteopathic medi-

1 cine, that was established, improved, or ex-
 2 panded under this program;

3 “(D) the effects of such program on health
 4 care access in underserved areas, including
 5 medically underserved communities and health
 6 professional shortage areas; and

7 “(E) recommendations for improving the
 8 program described in this section, and any
 9 other considerations as the Secretary deter-
 10 mines appropriate.

11 “(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary
 12 shall make reports submitted under paragraph (2)
 13 publicly available on the internet website of the De-
 14 partment of Health and Human Services.

15 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16 “(1) BRANCH CAMPUS.—

17 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘branch
 18 campus’, with respect to a school of medicine or
 19 osteopathic medicine, means an additional loca-
 20 tion of such school that is geographically apart
 21 and independent of the main campus, at which
 22 the school offers at least 50 percent of the pro-
 23 gram leading to a degree of doctor of medicine
 24 or doctor of osteopathy that is offered at the
 25 main campus.

“(B) INDEPENDENCE FROM MAIN CAMPUS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the location of a school described in such subparagraph shall be considered to be independent of the main campus described in such subparagraph if the location—

“(i) is permanent in nature;

“(ii) offers courses in educational programs leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential;

“(iii) has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization; and

“(iv) has its own budgetary and hiring authority.

“(2) FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT.—

The term ‘first generation college student’ has the meaning given such term in section 402A(h)(3) of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

“(3) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE

AREA.—The term ‘health professional shortage area’ has the meaning given such term in section 332(a).

“(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—

The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

1 “(5) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—

2 The term ‘medically underserved community’ has the

3 meaning given such term in section 799B(6).

4 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There

5 is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-

6 essary to carry out this section.”.

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