

Union Calendar No.

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3320

[Report No. 117-]

To amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to authorize assistance for increasing workforce diversity in the professions of physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, audiology, and speech-language pathology, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 18, 2021

Mr. RUSH (for himself and Mr. MULLIN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

DECEMBER --, 2021

Reported with an amendment, committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italics]

[For text of introduced bill, see copy of bill as introduced on May 18, 2021]

A BILL

To amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to authorize assistance for increasing workforce diversity in the professions of physical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory therapy, audiology, and speech-language pathology, 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.**

4 *This Act may be cited as the “Allied Health Workforce*
5 *Diversity Act of 2021”.*

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY IN THE PRO-**
7 **FESSIONS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY, OCCUPA-**
8 **TIONAL THERAPY, RESPIRATORY THERAPY,**
9 **AUDIOLOGY, AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PA-**
10 **THOLOGY.**

11 *Title VII of the Public Health Service Act is amend-*
12 *ed—*

13 *(1) by redesignating part G (42 U.S.C. 295j et*
14 *seq.) as part H; and*

15 *(2) by inserting after part F (42 U.S.C. 295h)*
16 *the following new part:*

17 **“PART G—INCREASING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY**
18 **IN THE PROFESSIONS OF PHYSICAL THER-**
19 **APY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, RES-**
20 **PIRATORY THERAPY, AUDIOLOGY, AND**
21 **SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**

22 **“SEC. 783. SCHOLARSHIPS AND STIPENDS.**

23 *“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants*
24 *and contracts to eligible entities to increase educational op-*
25 *portunities in the professions of physical therapy, occupa-*

1 *tional therapy, respiratory therapy, audiology, and speech-*
2 *language pathology for eligible individuals by—*

3 *“(1) providing student scholarships or stipends,*
4 *including for—*

5 *“(A) completion of an accelerated degree*
6 *program;*

7 *“(B) completion of an associate’s, bachelor’s,*
8 *master’s, or doctoral degree program; and*

9 *“(C) entry by a diploma or associate’s de-*
10 *gree practitioner into a bridge or degree comple-*
11 *tion program;*

12 *“(2) providing assistance for completion of pre-*
13 *requisite courses or other preparation necessary for*
14 *acceptance for enrollment in the eligible entity; and*

15 *“(3) carrying out activities to increase the reten-*
16 *tion of students in one or more programs in the pro-*
17 *fessions of physical therapy, occupational therapy,*
18 *respiratory therapy, audiology, and speech-language*
19 *pathology.*

20 *“(b) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—In*
21 *carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into*
22 *consideration the recommendations of national organiza-*
23 *tions representing the professions of physical therapy, occu-*
24 *pational therapy, respiratory therapy, audiology, and*
25 *speech-language pathology, including the American Phys-*

1 *ical Therapy Association, the American Occupational Ther-*
2 *apy Association, the American Speech-Language-Hearing*
3 *Association, the American Association for Respiratory*
4 *Care, the American Academy of Audiology, and the Acad-*
5 *emy of Doctors of Audiology.*

6 “(c) *REQUIRED INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS FOR*
7 *AWARD RECIPIENTS.—*

8 “(1) *IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require*
9 *recipients of awards under this section to report to*
10 *the Secretary concerning the annual admission, reten-*
11 *tion, and graduation rates for eligible individuals in*
12 *programs of the recipient leading to a degree in any*
13 *of the professions of physical therapy, occupational*
14 *therapy, respiratory therapy, audiology, and speech-*
15 *language pathology.*

16 “(2) *FALLING RATES.—If any of the rates re-*
17 *ported by a recipient under paragraph (1) fall below*
18 *the average for such recipient over the two years pre-*
19 *ceding the year covered by the report, the recipient*
20 *shall provide the Secretary with plans for imme-*
21 *diately improving such rates.*

22 “(3) *INELIGIBILITY.—A recipient described in*
23 *paragraph (2) shall be ineligible for continued fund-*
24 *ing under this section if the plan of the recipient fails*

1 *to improve the rates within the 1-year period begin-*
2 *ning on the date such plan is implemented.*

3 “(d) *DEFINITIONS.—In this section:*

4 “(1) *ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term ‘eligible en-*
5 *tity’ means an accredited education program that is*
6 *carrying out a program for recruiting and retaining*
7 *students underrepresented in the professions of phys-*
8 *ical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory ther-*
9 *apy, audiology, and speech-language pathology (in-*
10 *cluding racial or ethnic minorities, or students from*
11 *disadvantaged backgrounds).*

12 “(2) *ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible*
13 *individual’ means an individual who—*

14 “(A) *is a member of a class of persons who*
15 *are underrepresented in the professions of phys-*
16 *ical therapy, occupational therapy, respiratory*
17 *therapy, audiology, and speech-language pathol-*
18 *ogy, including individuals who are—*

19 “(i) *racial or ethnic minorities;*

20 “(ii) *from disadvantaged backgrounds;*

21 *or*

22 “(iii) *individuals with a disability (as*
23 *defined in section 3(1) of the Americans*
24 *with Disabilities Act of 1990), or who have*
25 *an individualized education program (as*

1 *defined in section 602 of the Individuals*
2 *with Disabilities Education Act), are cov-*
3 *ered under section 504 of the Rehabilitation*
4 *Act of 1973, or have other documentation*
5 *establishing the student’s disability (as such*
6 *term is defined in section 3(1) of the Ameri-*
7 *cans with Disabilities Act of 1990);*

8 *“(B) has a financial need for a scholarship*
9 *or stipend; and*

10 *“(C) is enrolled (or accepted for enrollment)*
11 *at an audiology, speech-language pathology, res-*
12 *piratory therapy, physical therapy, or occupa-*
13 *tional therapy program as a full-time student at*
14 *an eligible entity.*

15 *“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is*
16 *authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section*
17 *\$8,000,000 for the first fiscal year commencing after the*
18 *date of enactment of the Allied Health Workforce Diversity*
19 *Act of 2021 and each of the 4 succeeding fiscal years.”.*

20 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY CLARIFICATION REGARDING STU-**
21 **DENTS SUPPORTED THROUGH MENTAL AND**
22 **BEHAVIORAL HEALTH EDUCATION AND**
23 **TRAINING GRANTS.**

24 *Section 756(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42*
25 *U.S.C. 294e–1(a)(1)) is amended by inserting after “occu-*

1 *pational therapy” the following: “(which may include mas-*
2 *ter’s and doctoral level programs)”.*