

**AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 3297
OFFERED BY M . _____**

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Public Health Work-
3 force Loan Repayment Act of 2021”.

**4 SEC. 2. PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE LOAN REPAYMENT
5 PROGRAM.**

6 Section 776 of the Public Health Service Act (42
7 U.S.C. 295f–1) is amended—

8 (1) in subsection (a)—

9 (A) by striking “supply of” and inserting
10 “supply of, and to encourage the recruitment
11 of,”; and

12 (B) by striking “Federal,”;

13 (2) in subsection (b)—

14 (A) in paragraph (1)—

15 (i) by amending subparagraph (A) to
16 read as follows:

17 “(A)(i) be accepted for enrollment, or be
18 enrolled, as a student in an institution of higher

1 education (as defined in section 101 of the
2 Higher Education Act of 1965) in the final se-
3 mester (or equivalent) of a course of study or
4 program leading to a public health degree, a
5 health professions degree, or a degree in com-
6 puter science, information science, information
7 systems, information technology, or statistics;
8 and

9 “(ii) have accepted employment with a
10 State, local, or tribal public health agency, or a
11 related training fellowship, as recognized by the
12 Secretary, to commence upon graduation; or”;
13 and

14 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

15 (I) in clause (i), by striking “ac-
16 credited educational institution in a
17 State or territory and received a pub-
18 lic health or health professions degree
19 or certificate” and inserting “institu-
20 tion of higher education (as defined in
21 section 101 of the Higher Education
22 Act of 1965) and received a public
23 health degree, a health professions de-
24 gree, or a degree in computer science,
25 information science, information sys-

1 tems, information technology, or sta-
2 tistics”; and

3 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
4 “Federal,”; and

5 (B) in paragraph (4), by striking “section
6 455(m), 428J, 428K, 428L, or 460” and in-
7 serting “section 428K or 428L”;

8 (3) in subsection (c)—

9 (A) in paragraph (1)—

10 (i) by striking “individual loans” and
11 inserting “individual eligible loans”; and

12 (ii) by striking “or certificate”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (2)—

14 (i) by striking “Federal,”; and

15 (ii) by striking “period of time” and
16 all that follows through the end of sub-
17 paragraph (B) and inserting “a period of
18 at least 3 consecutive years (referred to in
19 this section as the ‘period of obligated
20 service’);”;

21 (4) in subsection (d)—

22 (A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as
23 follows:

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A loan repayment provided
25 for an individual under a written contract under the

1 Program shall consist of payment, in accordance
2 with paragraph (2), for the individual toward the
3 outstanding principal and interest on eligible loans
4 incurred by the individual in the pursuit of the rel-
5 evant degree, in accordance with the terms of the
6 contract.”;

7 (B) in paragraph (2)—

8 (i) by striking “For each year” and
9 inserting the following:

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each year”; and

11 (ii) by adding at the end the fol-
12 lowing:

13 “(B) CONSIDERATIONS.—The Secretary
14 may in providing a loan repayment for an indi-
15 vidual under a written contract under the Pro-
16 gram, take such steps to ensure that—

17 “(i) not fewer than 50 percent of con-
18 tracts entered into under subsection (c) are
19 awarded to individuals, who at the time of
20 entering into the contract, are not em-
21 ployed by a State, local, or Tribal public
22 health agency or a related training fellow-
23 ship, as recognized by the Secretary; and

1 “(ii) the contracts entered into under
2 subsection (c) are equitably distributed
3 among—

4 “(I) the geographical regions of
5 the United States; and

6 “(II) State, local, and Tribal
7 public health departments.”; and

8 (C) by amending paragraph (3) to read as
9 follows:

10 “(3) TAX TREATMENT OF PAYMENTS.—For
11 purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a
12 payment made under this section shall be treated in
13 the same manner as an amount received under sec-
14 tion 338B(g) of this title, as described in section
15 108(f)(4) of such Code.”;

16 (5) in subsection (e)—

17 (A) by striking “receiving a degree or cer-
18 tificate from a health professions or other re-
19 lated school” and inserting “with a contract to
20 serve under subsection (c)”;

21 (B) by inserting “or extended” after “post-
22 poned”;

23 (6) striking subsection (g); and

24 (7) by adding at the end the following:

1 “(g) ELIGIBLE LOAN.—In this section, the term ‘eli-
2 gible loan’ means any of the following:

3 “(1) Any loan for education or training for pub-
4 lic health employment.

5 “(2) Any loan under part E of title VIII (relat-
6 ing to nursing student loans).

7 “(3) Any Federal Direct Stafford Loan, Fed-
8 eral Direct PLUS Loan, Federal Direct Unsub-
9 sidized Stafford Loan, or Federal Direct Consolida-
10 tion Loan (as such terms are used in section 455 of
11 the Higher Education Act of 1965).

12 “(4) Any Federal Perkins Loan under part E
13 of title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

14 “(5) Any other Federal loan, as determined ap-
15 propriate by the Secretary.

16 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
17 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

18 “(1) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2023; and

19 “(2) \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024
20 through 2027.”.

