To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve essential oral health care for low-income and other underserved individuals by breaking down barriers to care, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 15, 2017

Ms. KELLY of Illinois (for herself and Mr. SIMPSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve essential oral health care for low-income and other underserved individuals by breaking down barriers to care, 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 “Action for Dental
5 Health Act of 2017”.

G:\VHLC\062917\062917.108.xml (66557611) June 29, 2017 (12:15 p.m.)
SEC. 2. VOLUNTEER DENTAL PROJECTS AND ACTION FOR
DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.

Section 317M of the Public Health Service Act (42
U.S.C. 247b–14) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as
subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
lowing new subsection:

“(e) ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
tion with the Director of the Centers for Disease
Control and Prevention and the Administrator of the
Health Resources and Service Administration, may
award grants to or enter into contracts with eligible
entities to collaborate with State, county, or local
public officials and other stakeholders to develop and
implement initiatives to accomplish any of the fol-
lowing goals:

“(A) To improve oral health education and
dental disease prevention, including through
community-wide prevention programs, through
the use of dental sealants and fluoride varnish,
and by increasing oral health literacy.

“(B) To reduce geographic barriers, lan-
guage barriers, cultural barriers, and other
similar barriers to the provision of dental services.

“(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that is—

“(A) a State or local dental association;

“(B) a State oral health program;

“(C) a dental education, dental hygiene, or postdoctoral dental education program accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation; or

“(D) a community-based organization that—

“(i) partners with an academic institution;

“(ii) is exempt from tax under section 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; and

“(iii) partners with public and private stakeholders to facilitate the provision of dental services for underserved populations.”; and

(3) in subsection (g), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2001 through

“$18,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS.

Section 340G of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256g) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(5)—

(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” at the end; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) the establishment of dental homes for children and adults, including for the aged, blind, and disabled populations;

“(E) the establishment of initiatives to reduce the use of emergency departments by individuals who seek dental services more appropriately delivered in a dental primary care setting; and

“(F) the provision of dental care to nursing home residents;”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “$25,000,000 for the 5-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year 2008” and inserting “$13,903,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

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