H. R. 3728

To amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to the health professions workforce, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 11, 2017

Mr. BURGESS (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. BUCSHON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize certain programs relating to the health professions workforce, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and Readiness Act of 2017” or the “EMPOWER Act of 2017”.

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SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE PROGRAMS.

(a) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Subsection (i) of section 736 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293) is amended to read as follows:

“(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated $21,711,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.”.

(b) HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING FOR DIVERSITY.—Section 740 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293d) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “$51,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2014” and inserting “$45,970,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022”;

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “$5,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014” and inserting “$1,190,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022”; and

(3) in subsection (c), by striking “$60,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2011 through 2014” and inserting “$14,189,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

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(c) Primary Care Training and Enhancement.—Section 747(e)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293k(e)(1)) is amended by striking “$125,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2014” and inserting “$38,924,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

(d) Training in General, Pediatric, and Public Health Dentistry.—Section 748(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293k–2(f)) is amended by striking “$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015” and inserting “$36,673,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

(e) Area Health Education Centers.—Section 751(j)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294a(j)(1)) is amended by striking “$125,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014” and inserting “$30,250,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

(f) National Center for Healthcare Workforce Analysis.—

(1) In general.—Section 761(e)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294n(e)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “$7,500,000
for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014” and inserting “$4,663,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

(2) **TECHNICAL CORRECTION.**—Section 761(e)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294n(e)(2)) is amended by striking “subsection (a)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”.

(g) **PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE.**—Section 770(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295e(a)) is amended by striking “$43,000,000 for fiscal year 2011, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2012 through 2015” and inserting “$21,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

SEC. 3. EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATING TO GERIATRICS.

Section 753 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294c) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 753. EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATING TO GERIATRICS.

“(a) **GERIATRICS WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall award grants under this subsection to entities described in paragraph (1), (3), or (4) of section 799B, section 801(2), or section 865(d), or other health profess-
sions schools or programs approved by the Secretary, for the establishment or operation of geriatric workforce enhancement programs that meet the requirements of paragraph (2).

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A geriatrics workforce enhancement program meets the requirements of this paragraph if such program supports the development of a health care workforce that maximizes patient and family engagement and improves health outcomes for older adults by integrating geriatrics with primary care and other appropriate specialties. Special emphasis should be placed on providing the primary care workforce with the knowledge and skills to care for older adults and collaborating with community partners to address gaps in health care for older adults through individual, system, community, and population level changes. Areas of programmatic focus may include the following:

“(A) Transforming clinical training environments to integrated geriatrics and primary care delivery systems to ensure trainees are well prepared to practice in and lead in such systems.

“(B) Developing providers who can assess and address the needs and preferences of older
adults and their families and caregivers at the
individual, community, and population levels.

“(C) Creating and delivering community-
based programs that will provide older adults
and their families and caregivers with the
knowledge and skills to improve health out-
comes and the quality of care for such adults.

“(D) Providing Alzheimer’s disease and re-
lated dementias (ADRD) education to the fami-
lies and caregivers of older adults, direct care
workers, health professions students, faculty,
and providers.

“(3) DURATION.—The Secretary shall award
grants under paragraph (1) for a period not to ex-
ceed five years.

“(4) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a
grant under paragraph (1), an entity described in
such paragraph shall submit to the Secretary an ap-
lication at such time, in such manner, and con-
taining such information as the Secretary may re-
quire.

“(5) EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary may award grants under
paragraph (1) in a manner which will equitably dis-
tribute such grants among the various regions of the United States.

“(6) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under paragraph (1), the Secretary may give priority to programs that—

“(A) have the goal of improving and providing comprehensive coordinated care of older adults, including medical, dental, and psychosocial needs;

“(B) support the training and retraining of faculty, preceptors, primary care providers, and providers in other specialties to increase their knowledge of geriatrics and gerontology;

“(C) provide clinical experiences across care settings, including ambulatory care, hospitals, post-acute care, nursing homes, federally qualified health centers, and home and community-based services;

“(D) emphasize education and engagement of family caregivers on disease self-management, medication management, and stress reduction strategies;

“(E) provide training to the health care workforce on disease self-management, motiva-
tional interviewing, medication management, and stress reduction strategies;

“(F) provide training to the health care workforce on social determinants of health in order to better address the geriatric health care needs of diverse populations;

“(G) integrate geriatrics competencies and interprofessional collaborative practice into health care education and training curricula for residents, fellows, and students;

“(H) substantially benefit rural or underserved populations of older adults;

“(I) integrate behavioral health competencies into primary care practice, especially with respect to elder abuse, pain management, and advance care planning; or

“(J) offer short-term intensive courses that—

“(i) focus on geriatrics, gerontology, chronic care management, and long-term care that provide supplemental training for faculty members in medical schools and other health professions schools or graduate programs in psychology, pharmacy, nursing, social work, dentistry, public
health, allied health, or other health disciplines, as approved by the Secretary; and

“(ii) are open to current faculty, and appropriately credentialed volunteer faculty and practitioners, to upgrade their knowledge and clinical skills for the care of older adults and adults with functional and cognitive limitations and to enhance their interdisciplinary teaching skills.

“(b) GERIATRIC ACADEMIC CAREER AWARDS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program to provide Geriatric Academic Career Awards to eligible entities applying on behalf of eligible individuals to promote the career development of such individuals as academic geriatricians or other academic geriatrics health professionals.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—

“(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

“(i) an entity described in paragraph (1), (3), or (4) of section 295p or section 296(2); or
“(ii) an accredited health professions school or graduate program approved by the Secretary.

“(B) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘eligible individual’ means an individual who—

“(i) is board certified or board eligible in internal medicine, family practice, psychiatry, or licensed dentistry, or has completed any required training in a discipline and is employed in an accredited health professions school or graduate program that is approved by the Secretary; or

“(ii) has completed an approved fellowship program in geriatrics or gerontology, or has completed specialty training in geriatrics or gerontology as required by the discipline and any additional geriatrics or gerontology training as required by the Secretary; and

“(iii) has a junior (non-tenured) faculty appointment at an accredited school of allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, dentistry, pharmacy, or other allied health disciplines
in an accredited health professions school or graduate program that is approved by the Secretary.

“(3) LIMITATIONS.—An eligible entity may not receive an award under paragraph (1) on behalf of an eligible individual unless the eligible entity—

“(A) submits to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, and the Secretary approves such application;

“(B) provides, in such form and manner as the Secretary may require, assurances that the eligible individual on whose behalf an application was submitted under subparagraph (A) will meet the service requirement described in paragraph (7); and

“(C) provides, in such form and manner as the Secretary may require, assurances that such individual has a full-time faculty appointment in an accredited health professions school or graduate program and documented commitment from such school or program to spend 50 percent of the total time of such individual on
teaching and developing skills in interdisciplinary education in geriatrics.

“(4) REQUIREMENTS.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary—

“(A) shall give priority to eligible entities that apply on behalf of eligible individuals who are on the faculty of institutions that integrate geriatrics education, training, and best practices into academic program criteria;

“(B) may give priority to eligible entities that operate a geriatrics workforce enhancement program under subsection (a);

“(C) shall ensure that grants are equitably distributed among rural or underserved populations of older adults across the various geographical regions of the United States;

“(D) shall pay particular attention to geriatrics healthcare workforce needs among underserved populations and rural areas;

“(E) may not require an eligible individual, or an eligible entity applying on behalf of an eligible individual, to be a recipient of a grant or contract under section 753(a) or 750 of title VII of the Public Health Service Act; and
“(F) shall award a maximum of 120 grants during any three-year period.

“(5) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—An eligible entity receiving an award under paragraph (1) on behalf of an eligible individual shall provide assurances to the Secretary that funds provided to such individual under this subsection will be used only to supplement, not to supplant, the amount of Federal, State, and local funds otherwise expended by such individual.

“(6) AMOUNT AND TERM.—

“(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of an award under this subsection for eligible individuals who are physicians shall equal $50,000 for fiscal year 1998, adjusted for subsequent fiscal years to reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index. The Secretary shall determine the amount of an award under this subsection for individuals who are not physicians.

“(B) TERM.—The term of any award made under this subsection shall not exceed 3 years.

“(C) PAYMENT TO INSTITUTION.—The Secretary shall make payments to institutions which include schools of medicine, osteopathic
medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, dentistry, and pharmacy, or other allied health discipline in an accredited health professions school or graduate program that is approved by the Secretary.

“(7) SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—An eligible individual on whose behalf an application was submitted and approved under paragraph (3)(A) shall provide training in clinical geriatrics or gerontology, including the training of interdisciplinary teams of health care professionals.

“(c) Authorization of Appropriations.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this subsection $38,737,000 for the period of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.”.