

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# 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.

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## 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

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## 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.

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 “Educating Medical  
5 Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and  
6 Readiness Act of 2017” or the “EMPOWER Act of  
7 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**  
2 **WORKFORCE PROGRAMS.**

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

6 “(i) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—To  
7 carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-  
8 priated \$21,711,000 for each of fiscal years 2018 through  
9 2022.”.

10 (b) **HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING FOR DIVER-**  
11 **SITY.**—Section 740 of the Public Health Service Act (42  
12 U.S.C. 293d) is amended—

13 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$51,000,000  
14 for fiscal year 2010, and such sums as may be nec-  
15 essary for each of the fiscal years 2011 through  
16 2014” and inserting “\$45,970,000 for each of the  
17 fiscal years 2018 through 2022”;

18 (2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$5,000,000  
19 for each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014” and  
20 inserting “\$1,190,000 for each of the fiscal years  
21 2018 through 2022”; and

22 (3) in subsection (c), by striking “\$60,000,000  
23 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums as may be nec-  
24 essary for each of the fiscal years 2011 through  
25 2014” and inserting “\$14,189,000 for each of the  
26 fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

1 (c) PRIMARY CARE TRAINING AND ENHANCE-  
2 MENT.—Section 747(c)(1) of the Public Health Service  
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 293k(c)(1)) is amended by striking  
4 “\$125,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, and such sums as  
5 may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2011 through  
6 2014” and inserting “\$38,924,000 for each of fiscal years  
7 2018 through 2022”.

8 (d) TRAINING IN GENERAL, PEDIATRIC, AND PUBLIC  
9 HEALTH DENTISTRY.—Section 748(f) of the Public  
10 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293k–2(f)) is amended by  
11 striking “\$30,000,000 for fiscal year 2010 and such sums  
12 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2011 through  
13 2015” and inserting “\$36,673,000 for each of fiscal years  
14 2018 through 2022”.

15 (e) AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS.—Section  
16 751(j)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
17 294a(j)(1)) is amended by striking “\$125,000,000 for  
18 each of the fiscal years 2010 through 2014” and inserting  
19 “\$30,250,000 for each of the fiscal years 2018 through  
20 2022”.

21 (f) NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE WORK-  
22 FORCE ANALYSIS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 761(e)(1)(A) of the  
24 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
25 294n(e)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “\$7,500,000

1 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014” and in-  
2 serting “\$4,663,000 for each of fiscal years 2018  
3 through 2022”.

4 (2) TECHNICAL CORRECTION.—Section  
5 761(e)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42  
6 U.S.C. 294n(e)(2)) is amended by striking “sub-  
7 section (a)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”.

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

14 **SEC. 3. EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATING TO GERI-**  
15 **ATRICS.**

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

18 **“SEC. 753. EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATING TO GERI-**  
19 **ATRICS.**

20 “(a) GERIATRICS WORKFORCE ENHANCEMENT PRO-  
21 GRAM.—

22 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
23 grants under this subsection to entities described in  
24 paragraph (1), (3), or (4) of section 799B, section  
25 801(2), or section 865(d), or other health profes-

1 sions schools or programs approved by the Sec-  
2 retary, for the establishment or operation of geri-  
3 atric workforce enhancement programs that meet  
4 the requirements of paragraph (2).

5 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A geriatrics workforce  
6 enhancement program meets the requirements of  
7 this paragraph if such program supports the devel-  
8 opment of a health care workforce that maximizes  
9 patient and family engagement and improves health  
10 outcomes for older adults by integrating geriatrics  
11 with primary care and other appropriate specialties.  
12 Special emphasis should be placed on providing the  
13 primary care workforce with the knowledge and  
14 skills to care for older adults and collaborating with  
15 community partners to address gaps in health care  
16 for older adults through individual, system, commu-  
17 nity, and population level changes. Areas of pro-  
18 grammatic focus may include the following:

19 “(A) Transforming clinical training envi-  
20 ronments to integrated geriatrics and primary  
21 care delivery systems to ensure trainees are well  
22 prepared to practice in and lead in such sys-  
23 tems.

24 “(B) Developing providers who can assess  
25 and address the needs and preferences of older

1 adults and their families and caregivers at the  
2 individual, community, and population levels.

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

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

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

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

22 “(5) EQUITABLE GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBU-  
23 TION.—The Secretary may award grants under  
24 paragraph (1) in a manner which will equitably dis-

1       tribute such grants among the various regions of the  
2       United States.

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

6                       “(A) have the goal of improving and pro-  
7       viding comprehensive coordinated care of older  
8       adults, including medical, dental, and psycho-  
9       social needs;

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

14                      “(C) provide clinical experiences across  
15       care settings, including ambulatory care, hos-  
16       pitals, post-acute care, nursing homes, federally  
17       qualified health centers, and home and commu-  
18       nity-based services;

19                      “(D) emphasize education and engagement  
20       of family caregivers on disease self-manage-  
21       ment, medication management, and stress re-  
22       duction strategies;

23                      “(E) provide training to the health care  
24       workforce on disease self-management, motiva-

1 tional interviewing, medication management,  
2 and stress reduction strategies;

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

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

11 “(H) substantially benefit rural or under-  
12 served populations of older adults;

13 “(I) integrate behavioral health com-  
14 petencies into primary care practice, especially  
15 with respect to elder abuse, pain management,  
16 and advance care planning; or

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

19 “(i) focus on geriatrics, gerontology,  
20 chronic care management, and long-term  
21 care that provide supplemental training for  
22 faculty members in medical schools and  
23 other health professions schools or grad-  
24 uate programs in psychology, pharmacy,  
25 nursing, social work, dentistry, public

1 health, allied health, or other health dis-  
2 ciplines, as approved by the Secretary; and

3 “(ii) are open to current faculty, and  
4 appropriately credentialed volunteer faculty  
5 and practitioners, to upgrade their knowl-  
6 edge and clinical skills for the care of older  
7 adults and adults with functional and cog-  
8 nitive limitations and to enhance their  
9 interdisciplinary teaching skills.

10 “(b) GERIATRIC ACADEMIC CAREER AWARDS.—

11 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Sec-  
12 retary shall establish a program to provide Geriatric  
13 Academic Career Awards to eligible entities applying  
14 on behalf of eligible individuals to promote the ca-  
15 reer development of such individuals as academic  
16 geriatricians or other academic geriatrics health pro-  
17 fessionals.

18 “(2) ELIGIBILITY.—

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

22 “(i) an entity described in paragraph  
23 (1), (3), or (4) of section 295p or section  
24 296(2); or

1           “(ii) an accredited health professions  
2           school or graduate program approved by  
3           the Secretary.

4           “(B) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—For pur-  
5           poses of this subsection, the term ‘eligible indi-  
6           vidual’ means an individual who—

7                   “(i) is board certified or board eligible  
8                   in internal medicine, family practice, psy-  
9                   chiatry, or licensed dentistry, or has com-  
10                  pleted any required training in a discipline  
11                  and is employed in an accredited health  
12                  professions school or graduate program  
13                  that is approved by the Secretary; or

14                   “(ii) has completed an approved fel-  
15                  lowship program in geriatrics or geron-  
16                  tology, or has completed specialty training  
17                  in geriatrics or gerontology as required by  
18                  the discipline and any additional geriatrics  
19                  or gerontology training as required by the  
20                  Secretary; and

21                   “(iii) has a junior (non-tenured) fac-  
22                  ulty appointment at an accredited school of  
23                  allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine,  
24                  nursing, social work, psychology, dentistry,  
25                  pharmacy, or other allied health disciplines

1           in an accredited health professions school  
2           or graduate program that is approved by  
3           the Secretary.

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

7                   “(A) submits to the Secretary an applica-  
8                   tion, at such time, in such manner, and con-  
9                   taining such information as the Secretary may  
10                  require, and the Secretary approves such applica-  
11                  tion;

12                   “(B) provides, in such form and manner as  
13                   the Secretary may require, assurances that the  
14                   eligible individual on whose behalf an applica-  
15                   tion was submitted under subparagraph (A) will  
16                   meet the service requirement described in para-  
17                   graph (7); and

18                   “(C) provides, in such form and manner as  
19                   the Secretary may require, assurances that such  
20                   individual has a full-time faculty appointment  
21                   in an accredited health professions school or  
22                   graduate program and documented commitment  
23                   from such school or program to spend 50 per-  
24                   cent of the total time of such individual on

1 teaching and developing skills in interdiscipli-  
2 nary education in geriatrics.

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

5 “(A) shall give priority to eligible entities  
6 that apply on behalf of eligible individuals who  
7 are on the faculty of institutions that integrate  
8 geriatrics education, training, and best prac-  
9 tices into academic program criteria;

10 “(B) may give priority to eligible entities  
11 that operate a geriatrics workforce enhance-  
12 ment program under subsection (a);

13 “(C) shall ensure that grants are equitably  
14 distributed among rural or underserved popu-  
15 lations of older adults across the various geo-  
16 graphical regions of the United States;

17 “(D) shall pay particular attention to geri-  
18 atrics healthcare workforce needs among under-  
19 served populations and rural areas;

20 “(E) may not require an eligible individual,  
21 or an eligible entity applying on behalf of an eli-  
22 gible individual, to be a recipient of a grant or  
23 contract under section 753(a) or 750 of title  
24 VII of the Public Health Service Act; and

1           “(F) shall award a maximum of 120  
2           grants during any three-year period.

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

11          “(6) AMOUNT AND TERM.—

12           “(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of an award  
13           under this subsection for eligible individuals  
14           who are physicians shall equal \$50,000 for fis-  
15           cal year 1998, adjusted for subsequent fiscal  
16           years to reflect the increase in the Consumer  
17           Price Index. The Secretary shall determine the  
18           amount of an award under this subsection for  
19           individuals who are not physicians.

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

23           “(C) PAYMENT TO INSTITUTION.—The  
24           Secretary shall make payments to institutions  
25           which include schools of medicine, osteopathic

1 medicine, nursing, social work, psychology, den-  
2 tistry, and pharmacy, or other allied health dis-  
3 cipline in an accredited health professions  
4 school or graduate program that is approved by  
5 the Secretary.

6 “(7) SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—An eligible indi-  
7 vidual on whose behalf an application was submitted  
8 and approved under paragraph (3)(A) shall provide  
9 training in clinical geriatrics or gerontology, includ-  
10 ing the training of interdisciplinary teams of health  
11 care professionals.

12 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
13 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-  
14 priated to carry out this subsection \$38,737,000 for the  
15 period of fiscal years 2018 through 2022.”.

○