

**AMENDMENT TO H.R. 2781**  
**OFFERED BY MR. RUSH OF ILLINOIS**

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

1 **SEC. 5. INCREASING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY IN THE PRO-**  
2 **FESSIONS OF PHYSICAL THERAPY, OCCUPA-**  
3 **TIONAL THERAPY, AUDIOLOGY, AND SPEECH-**  
4 **LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY.**

5 Title VII of the Public Health Service Act is amend-  
6 ed—

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

9 (2) by inserting after part F (42 U.S.C. 294n  
10 et seq.) the following new part:

11 **“PART G—INCREASING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY**  
12 **IN THE PROFESSIONS OF PHYSICAL THER-**  
13 **APY, OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY, AUDIOLOGY,**  
14 **AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY**

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

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants  
17 and contracts to eligible entities to increase educational  
18 opportunities in the professions of physical therapy, occu-  
19 pational therapy, audiology, and speech-language pathol-  
20 ogy for eligible individuals by—

1           “(1) providing student scholarships or stipends,  
2           including for—

3                   “(A) completion of an accelerated degree  
4           program;

5                   “(B) completion of an associate’s, bach-  
6           elor’s, master’s, or doctoral degree program;  
7           and

8                   “(C) entry by a diploma or associate’s de-  
9           gree practitioner into a bridge or degree com-  
10          pletion program;

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

14           “(3) carrying out activities to increase the re-  
15          tention of students in one or more programs in the  
16          professions of physical therapy, occupational ther-  
17          apy, audiology, and speech-language pathology.

18          “(b) CONSIDERATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS.—In  
19          carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into  
20          consideration the recommendations of national organiza-  
21          tions representing the professions of physical therapy, oc-  
22          cupational therapy, audiology, and speech-language pa-  
23          thology, including the American Physical Therapy Asso-  
24          ciation, the American Occupational Therapy Association,  
25          the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association, the

1 American Academy of Audiology, and the Academy of  
2 Doctors of Audiology.

3 “(c) REQUIRED INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS FOR  
4 AWARD RECIPIENTS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may require  
6 recipients of awards under this section to report to  
7 the Secretary concerning the annual admission, re-  
8 tention, and graduation rates for eligible individuals  
9 in programs of the recipient leading to a degree in  
10 any of the professions of physical therapy, occupa-  
11 tional therapy, audiology, and speech-language pa-  
12 thology.

13 “(2) FALLING RATES.—If any of the rates re-  
14 ported by a recipient under paragraph (1) fall below  
15 the average for such recipient over the two years  
16 preceding the year covered by the report, the recipi-  
17 ent shall provide the Secretary with plans for imme-  
18 diately improving such rates.

19 “(3) INELIGIBILITY.—A recipient described in  
20 paragraph (2) shall be ineligible for continued fund-  
21 ing under this section if the plan of the recipient  
22 fails to improve the rates within the 1-year period  
23 beginning on the date such plan is implemented.

24 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1           “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term ‘eligible  
2           entity’ means an education program that—

3                   “(A) is accredited by—

4                           “(i) the Council on Academic Accredi-  
5                           tation in Audiology and Speech-Language  
6                           Pathology or the Accreditation Commission  
7                           for Audiology Education;

8                           “(ii) the Commission on Accreditation  
9                           in Physical Therapy Education; or

10                          “(iii) the Accreditation Council for  
11                          Occupational Therapy Education; and

12                          “(B) is carrying out a program for recruit-  
13                          ing and retaining students underrepresented in  
14                          the professions of physical therapy, occupa-  
15                          tional therapy, audiology, and speech-language  
16                          pathology (including racial or ethnic minorities,  
17                          or students from disadvantaged backgrounds).

18           “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible  
19           individual’ means an individual who—

20                          “(A) is a member of a class of persons who  
21                          are underrepresented in the professions of phys-  
22                          ical therapy, occupational therapy, audiology,  
23                          and speech-language pathology (including indi-  
24                          viduals who are racial or ethnic minorities, or  
25                          are from disadvantaged backgrounds);

1                   “(B) has a financial need for a scholarship  
2                   or stipend; and

3                   “(C) is enrolled (or accepted for enroll-  
4                   ment) at an audiology, speech-language pathol-  
5                   ogy, physical therapy, or occupational therapy  
6                   program as a full-time student at an eligible en-  
7                   tity.

8                   “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
9                   are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
10                  \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through 2024.”.

