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(Original Signature of Member)

117TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8151

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to awards to support community health workers and community health.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. RUIZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to awards to support community health workers and community health.

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 “Building a Sustainable  
5 Workforce for Healthy Communities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AWARDS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY HEALTH WORK-**  
2 **ERS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH.**

3 Section 399V of the Public Health Service Act (42  
4 U.S.C. 280g–11) is amended—

5 (1) by amending the section heading to read as  
6 follows: “**AWARDS TO SUPPORT COMMUNITY**  
7 **HEALTH WORKERS AND COMMUNITY HEALTH**”;

8 (2) by amending subsection (a) to read as fol-  
9 lows:

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
11 the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Pre-  
12 vention and in coordination with the Administrator of the  
13 Health Resources and Services Administration, shall  
14 award grants, contracts, and cooperative agreements to el-  
15 igible entities to promote healthy behaviors and outcomes  
16 for populations in medically underserved communities  
17 through the use of community health workers, including  
18 by addressing ongoing and longer-term community health  
19 needs, and by building the capacity of the community  
20 health worker workforce. Such grants, contracts, and co-  
21 operative agreements shall be awarded in alignment and  
22 coordination with existing funding arrangements sup-  
23 porting community health workers.”;

24 (3) in subsection (b)—

25 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph

26 (1)—

1 (i) by striking “Grants awarded” and  
2 inserting “Subject to any requirements for  
3 the scope of licensure, registration, or cer-  
4 tification of a community health worker  
5 under applicable State law, grants, con-  
6 tracts, and cooperative agreements award-  
7 ed”; and

8 (ii) by striking “support community  
9 health workers”;

10 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (3)  
11 through (5) as paragraphs (4) through (6), re-  
12 spectively;

13 (C) by striking paragraphs (1) and (2) and  
14 inserting the following:

15 “(1) recruit, hire, and train community health  
16 workers that reflect the needs of the community;

17 “(2) support community health workers in pro-  
18 viding education and outreach, in a community set-  
19 ting, regarding—

20 “(A) health conditions prevalent in—

21 “(i) medically underserved commu-  
22 nities (as defined in section 799B), par-  
23 ticularly racial and ethnic minority popu-  
24 lations; and

1           “(ii) other such populations or geo-  
2           graphic areas that may require additional  
3           support during public health emergencies,  
4           which may include counties identified by  
5           the Secretary using applicable measures  
6           developed by the Centers for Disease Con-  
7           trol and Prevention or other Federal agen-  
8           cies; and

9           “(B) addressing social determinants of  
10          health and eliminating health disparities, in-  
11          cluding by—

12                 “(i) promoting awareness of services  
13                 and resources to increase access to health  
14                 care, child services, technology, housing  
15                 services, educational services, nutrition  
16                 services, employment services, and other  
17                 services; and

18                 “(ii) assisting in conducting individual  
19                 and community needs assessments;

20           “(3) educate community members, including re-  
21          garding effective strategies to promote healthy be-  
22          haviors;”;

23                 (D) in paragraph (4), as so redesignated,  
24          by striking “to educate” and inserting “edu-  
25          cate”;

1 (E) in paragraph (5), as so redesignated—

2 (i) by striking “to identify” and in-  
3 sserting “identify”;

4 (ii) by striking “healthcare agencies”  
5 and inserting “health care agencies”; and

6 (iii) by striking “healthcare services  
7 and to eliminate duplicative care; or” and  
8 inserting “health care services and to  
9 streamline care, including serving as a liai-  
10 son between communities and health care  
11 agencies; and”; and

12 (F) in paragraph (6), as so redesignated—

13 (i) by striking “to educate, guide, and  
14 provide” and inserting “support commu-  
15 nity health workers in educating, guiding,  
16 or providing”; and

17 (ii) by striking “maternal health and  
18 prenatal care” and inserting “chronic dis-  
19 eases, maternal health, and prenatal care  
20 in order to improve maternal and infant  
21 health outcomes”;

22 (4) in subsection (c), by striking “Each eligible  
23 entity” and all that follows through “accompanied  
24 by” and inserting “To be eligible to receive an  
25 award under subsection (a), an entity shall prepare

1 and submit to the Secretary an application at such  
2 time, in such manner, and containing”;

3 (5) in subsection (d)—

4 (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1),  
5 by striking “grants” and inserting “awards”;

6 (B) by amending paragraph (1) to read as  
7 follows:

8 “(1) propose to serve—

9 “(A) areas with populations that have a  
10 high rate of chronic disease, infant mortality, or  
11 maternal morbidity and mortality;

12 “(B) low-income populations, including  
13 medically underserved populations (as defined  
14 in section 330(b)(3));

15 “(C) populations residing in health profes-  
16 sional shortage areas (as defined in section  
17 332(a));

18 “(D) populations residing in maternity  
19 care health professional target areas identified  
20 under section 332(k); or

21 “(E) rural or traditionally underserved  
22 populations, including racial and ethnic minor-  
23 ity populations or low-income populations;”;

1 (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “; and”  
2 and inserting “, including rural populations and  
3 racial and ethnic minority populations;”;

4 (D) in paragraph (3), by striking “with  
5 community health workers.” and inserting “and  
6 established relationships with community health  
7 workers in the communities expected to be  
8 served by the program; or” and

9 (E) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(4) develop a plan for providing services to the  
11 extent practicable, in the language and cultural con-  
12 text most appropriate to individuals expected to be  
13 served by the program.”;

14 (6) in subsection (e)—

15 (A) by striking “community health worker  
16 programs” and inserting “eligible entities”; and

17 (B) by striking “and one-stop delivery sys-  
18 tems under section 121(e)” and inserting “,  
19 health professions schools, minority-serving in-  
20 stitutions (as described in section 371 of the  
21 Higher Education Act of 1965), area health  
22 education centers under section 751 of this Act,  
23 and one-stop delivery systems under section  
24 121”;

1           (7) by striking subsections (f), (g), (h), (i), and  
2           (j) and inserting the following:

3           “(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may  
4 provide to eligible entities that receive awards under sub-  
5 section (a) technical assistance with respect to planning,  
6 development, and operation of community health worker  
7 programs authorized or supported under this section.

8           “(g) DISSEMINATION OF BEST PRACTICES.—Not  
9 later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the  
10 Building a Sustainable Workforce for Healthy Commu-  
11 nities Act, the Secretary shall, based on activities carried  
12 out under this section and in collaboration with relevant  
13 stakeholders, identify and disseminate evidence-based or  
14 evidence-informed practices regarding recruitment and re-  
15 tention of community health workers to address ongoing  
16 public health and community health needs, and to prepare  
17 for, and respond to, future public health emergencies.

18           “(h) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 4 years  
19 after the date of enactment of the Building a Sustainable  
20 Workforce for Healthy Communities Act, the Secretary  
21 shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education,  
22 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on  
23 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives  
24 a report concerning the effectiveness of the program under  
25 this section in addressing ongoing public health and com-



1 munity health needs. Such report shall include rec-  
2 ommendations regarding any improvements to such pro-  
3 gram, including recommendations for how to improve re-  
4 cruitment, training, and retention of the community  
5 health workforce.

6 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For  
7 purposes of carrying out this section, there are authorized  
8 to be appropriated \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
9 2023 through 2027.”;

10 (8) by redesignating subsection (k) as sub-  
11 section (j); and

12 (9) in subsection (j), as so redesignated—

13 (A) by striking paragraphs (1), (2), and  
14 (4);

15 (B) by redesignating paragraph (3) as  
16 paragraph (1);

17 (C) in paragraph (1), as so redesignated—

18 (i) by striking “entity (including a  
19 State or public subdivision of a State” and  
20 inserting “entity, including a State or po-  
21 litical subdivision of a State, an Indian  
22 Tribe or Tribal organization, an urban In-  
23 dian organization, a community-based or-  
24 ganization”; and

1 (ii) by striking “as defined in section  
2 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act))” and  
3 inserting “(as described in section  
4 1861(aa)(4)(B) of the Social Security  
5 Act)”; and

6 (D) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(2) INDIAN TRIBE; TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—  
8 The terms ‘Indian Tribe’ and ‘Tribal organization’  
9 have the meanings given the terms ‘Indian tribe’ and  
10 ‘tribal organization’, respectively, in section 4 of the  
11 Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance  
12 Act.

13 “(3) URBAN INDIAN ORGANIZATION.—The term  
14 ‘urban Indian organization’ has the meaning given  
15 such term in section 4 of the Indian Health Care  
16 Improvement Act.”.

17 **SEC. 3. GAO STUDY AND REPORT.**

18 Not later than 4 years after the date of enactment  
19 of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States  
20 shall submit to the Committee on Health, Education,  
21 Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on  
22 Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives  
23 a report on the program authorized under section 399V  
24 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g–11) (as  
25 amended by section 2, including a review of the outcomes

1 and effectiveness of the program and coordination with ap-  
2 plicable programs of the Health Resources and Services  
3 Administration to ensure there is no unnecessary duplica-  
4 tion of efforts among such programs.