AMENDMENT IN THE NATURE OF A SUBSTITUTE
TO H.R. 2787
OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

1 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

2 This Act may be cited as the “Veterans-Specific Education for Tomorrow’s Health Professionals Act” or the “Vet HIP Act”.

5 SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DEPARTMENT OF

6 VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM FOR

7 CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UNDER-

8 GRADUATE STUDENTS.

9 It is the sense of Congress that the pilot program described in section 3(a) should be designed to—

11 (1) increase the awareness, knowledge, and empathy of future medical professionals toward the medical conditions common to veterans;

14 (2) increase the diversity of the recruitment pool of future physicians of the Department; and

16 (3) expand clinical observation opportunities for all students by encouraging students of all back-

18 grounds to consider a career in medicine.
SEC. 3. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PILOT PROGRAM FOR CLINICAL OBSERVATION BY UNDERGRADUATE STUDENTS.

(a) Establishment.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall carry out a pilot program for a one-year period, beginning not later than August 15, 2021, to provide certain students described in subsection (d) a clinical observation experience at medical centers of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(b) Medical Center Selection.—The Secretary shall carry out the pilot program under this section at not fewer than five medical centers of the Department. In selecting such medical centers, the Secretary shall ensure regional diversity among such selected medical centers.

(c) Clinical Observation Sessions.—

(1) Frequency and Duration.—In carrying out the pilot program, the Secretary shall—

(A) provide at least one and not more than three clinical observation sessions at each medical center selected during each calendar year;

(B) ensure that each clinical observation session—

(i) lasts between four and six months;

and

(ii) to the extent practicable, begins and ends concurrently with one or more
academic terms of an institution of higher
education (as defined in section 101 of the
Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.
1001)); and
(C) ensure that the clinical observation
sessions provided at a medical center have mini-
mal overlap.
(2) SESSIONS.—The Secretary shall ensure that
the pilot program consists of clinical observation ses-
sions as follows:
(A) Each session shall allow for not fewer
than five students nor greater than 15 students
to participate in the session.
(B) Each session shall consist of not fewer
than 20 observational hours nor greater than
40 observational hours.
(C) A majority of the observational hours
shall be spent observing a practicing physician.
The other observational hours shall be spent in
a manner that ensures a robust, well rounded
experience that exposes the students to a vari-
ety of aspects of medical care and health care
administration.
(D) Each session shall provide a diverse
clinical observation experience commensurate
with the standard expectations for medical
school applications.

(3) CONSIDERATION OF AREAS WITH STAFFING
SHORTAGES.—In carrying out the pilot program, the
Secretary may consider providing clinical observation
sessions with physicians employed in occupations
with large staffing shortages, such as occupations
identified under section 7412 of title 38, United
States Code.

(d) STUDENTS.—

(1) SELECTION.—The Secretary shall select to
participate in the pilot program under subsection (a)
students who are—

(A) nationals of the United States;

(B) enrolled in an accredited science or
medical program of study at an institution of
higher education; and

(C) referred by their institution of higher
education following an internal application proc-
ess.

(2) PRIORITY.—In making such selection, the
Secretary shall give priority to each of the following
four categories of students:

(A) Students who, at the time of the com-
pletion of their secondary education, resided in
a health professional shortage area (as defined
in section 332 of the Public Health Service Act
(42 U.S.C. 254e)).

(B) First generation college students (as
defined in section 402A(h)(3) of the Higher
Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

(C) Students who have been referred by
minority-serving institutions (as defined in sec-
tion 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of
1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a))).

(D) Veterans (as defined in section 101 of
title 38, United States Code).

(e) OTHER MATTERS.—In carrying out the pilot pro-
gram under this section, the Secretary shall—

(1) establish a formal status to facilitate the ac-
access to medical centers of the Department by stu-
dent observers participating in the pilot program;

(2) establish standardized legal, privacy, and
ethical requirements for the student observers, in-
cluding with respect to—

(A) ensuring that no student observer pro-
vides any care to patients; and

(B) ensuring the suitability of a student to
participate in the pilot program to ensure that
the student poses no risk to patients;
(3) develop and implement a partnership strategy with minority-serving institutions to encourage referrals;

(4) create standardized procedures for student observers;

(5) create an online information page about the pilot program on the internet website of the Department;

(6) publish on the online information page created under paragraph 5 the locations of such centers, and other information on the pilot program, not later than 180 days before the date on which applications are required to be submitted by potential student observers;

(7) identify medical centers and specific clinicians participating in the pilot program;

(8) notify the Committees on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate of the medical centers selected under subsection (c) within 30 days of selection, to facilitate program awareness; and

(9) establish procedures to follow up with each student observer to ascertain if the student was accepted into medical school.
(f) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the completion of the pilot program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall submit to the Committees on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Senate a report on the results of the pilot program, including—

(1) the number and demographics of all applicants, those accepted to participate in the pilot program, and those who completed the pilot program; and

(2) if participating institutions of higher education choose to administer satisfaction surveys that assess the experience of those who completed the pilot program, the results of any such satisfaction surveys, provided at the discretion of the institution of higher education.