

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 898

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 13, 2015

Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. CASSIDY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of optometrists in the National Health Service Corps scholarship and loan repayment programs, 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 “National Health Serv-
5 ice Corps Improvement Act of 2015”.

1 **SEC. 2. PARTICIPATION OF OPTOMETRISTS IN NATIONAL**
2 **HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.**

3 (1) PRIMARY HEALTH CARE SERVICES.—Sec-
4 tion 331 of the Public Health Service Act (42
5 U.S.C. 254d) is amended—

6 (A) in subsection (a)(3)(D), by striking
7 “or mental health,” and inserting “optometry,
8 or mental health,”; and

9 (B) in subsection (b)(2), by striking “and
10 physician assistants” and inserting “optom-
11 etrists, and physician assistants”.

12 (2) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 338A of
13 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l) is
14 amended—

15 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “and
16 physician assistants” and inserting “optom-
17 etrists, and physician assistants”; and

18 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “or
19 other health profession” and inserting “optom-
20 etry, or other health profession”.

21 (3) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—

22 (A) PARTICIPATION.—Section 338B of the
23 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1)
24 is amended—

1 (i) in subsection (a)(1), by striking
2 “and physician assistants” and inserting
3 “optometrists, and physician assistants”;

4 (ii) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by strik-
5 ing “or another health profession” and in-
6 serting “optometry, or another health pro-
7 fession”; and

8 (iii) in subsections (b)(1)(B) and
9 (b)(1)(C)(ii), by striking the term “or
10 other health profession” each place such
11 term appears and inserting “optometry, or
12 other health profession”.

13 (B) PERIOD OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—
14 Clauses (ii) and (iii) of section 338C(b)(5)(C)
15 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
16 254m(b)(5)(C)) are amended by striking the
17 term “or other health profession” each place
18 such term appears and inserting “optometry, or
19 other health profession”.

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