

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2422

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2018

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education,
Labor, and Pensions

AN ACT

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve essential oral health care for low-income and other underserved individuals by breaking down barriers to care, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Action for Dental
3 Health Act of 2017”.

4 **SEC. 2. VOLUNTEER DENTAL PROJECTS AND ACTION FOR**
5 **DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.**

6 Section 317M of the Public Health Service Act (42
7 U.S.C. 247b–14) is amended—

8 (1) by redesignating subsections (e) and (f) as
9 subsections (f) and (g), respectively;

10 (2) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
11 lowing new subsection:

12 “(e) ACTION FOR DENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consulta-
14 tion with the Director of the Centers for Disease
15 Control and Prevention and the Administrator of the
16 Health Resources and Service Administration, may
17 award grants to or enter into contracts with eligible
18 entities to collaborate with State, county, or local
19 public officials and other stakeholders to develop and
20 implement initiatives to accomplish any of the fol-
21 lowing goals:

22 “(A) To improve oral health education and
23 dental disease prevention, including through
24 community-wide prevention programs, through
25 the use of dental sealants and fluoride varnish,
26 and by increasing oral health literacy.

1 “(B) To reduce geographic barriers, lan-
2 guage barriers, cultural barriers, and other
3 similar barriers to the provision of dental serv-
4 ices.

5 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In this subsection, the
6 term ‘eligible entity’ means an entity that is—

7 “(A) a State or local dental association;

8 “(B) a State oral health program;

9 “(C) a dental education, dental hygiene, or
10 postdoctoral dental education program accred-
11 ited by the Commission on Dental Accredita-
12 tion; or

13 “(D) a community-based organization
14 that—

15 “(i) partners with an academic insti-
16 tution;

17 “(ii) is exempt from tax under section
18 501(c) of the Internal Revenue Code of
19 1986; and

20 “(iii) partners with public and private
21 stakeholders to facilitate the provision of
22 dental services for underserved popu-
23 lations.”; and

24 (3) in subsection (g), as redesignated by para-
25 graph (1), by striking “such sums as may be nec-

1 essary for each of the fiscal years 2001 through
2 2005” and inserting “\$18,000,000 for each of the
3 fiscal years 2018 through 2022”.

4 **SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS.**

5 Section 340G of the Public Health Service Act (42
6 U.S.C. 256g) is amended—

7 (1) in subsection (b)(5)—

8 (A) in subparagraph (B), by striking
9 “and” at the end; and

10 (B) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(D) the establishment of dental homes for
12 children and adults, including for the aged,
13 blind, and disabled populations;

14 “(E) the establishment of initiatives to re-
15 duce the use of emergency departments by indi-
16 viduals who seek dental services more appro-
17 priately delivered in a dental primary care set-
18 ting; and

19 “(F) the provision of dental care to nurs-
20 ing home residents;”; and

21 (2) in subsection (f), by striking “\$25,000,000
22 for the 5-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year

- 1 2008” and inserting “\$13,903,000 for each of fiscal
- 2 years 2018 through 2022”.

Passed the House of Representatives February 26,
2018.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,

Clerk.