

117TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8021

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to reduce barriers to immigrants becoming nurses or allied health professionals in the United States, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 9, 2022

Mr. SMITH of Washington (for himself and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to reduce barriers to immigrants becoming nurses or allied health professionals in the United States, 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 “Immigrants in Nursing
5 and Allied Health Act of 2022”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO IMMIGRANTS**
2 **BECOMING NURSES OR ALLIED HEALTH PRO-**
3 **FESSIONALS.**

4 Title VII of the Public Health Service Act is amended
5 by inserting after section 755 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
6 294e) the following:

7 **“SEC. 755A. GRANTS TO REDUCE BARRIERS TO IMMI-**
8 **GRANTS BECOMING NURSES OR ALLIED**
9 **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants
11 to State, local, and Tribal governments and private orga-
12 nizations to reduce barriers to becoming nurses or allied
13 health professionals in the United States for individuals
14 who are—

15 “(1) lawfully admitted for permanent residence;

16 “(2) admitted as a refugee under section 207 of
17 the Immigration and Nationality Act;

18 “(3) granted asylum under section 208 of such
19 Act; or

20 “(4) an immigrant otherwise authorized to be
21 employed in the United States.

22 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—A State, local, or Tribal gov-
23 ernment receiving a grant under this section shall use the
24 grant to reduce barriers described in subsection (a), which
25 may include—

26 “(1) paying the costs of—

1 “(A) education or training to become a
2 nurse or allied health professional; and

3 “(B) licensing or certification, including
4 the costs of preparing for and taking any exam-
5 ination applicable to the nursing or allied health
6 profession selected by the individual;

7 “(2) providing a living stipend to individuals
8 studying for such examination;

9 “(3) providing classes in English as a second
10 language; and

11 “(4) assisting in obtaining overseas academic or
12 training records.”.

13 **SEC. 3. ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN IMMIGRANTS TO SERVE**
14 **IN NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.**

15 Section 331 of the Public Health Service Act (42
16 U.S.C. 254d) is amended—

17 (1) by redesignating subsection (j) as sub-
18 section (k); and

19 (2) by inserting after subsection (i) the fol-
20 lowing:

21 “(j) SERVICE BY IMMIGRANTS.—Notwithstanding
22 any provision of law that would otherwise require a mem-
23 ber of the National Health Service Corps to be a United
24 States citizen or national, an individual described in sec-
25 tion 755A(a) may be eligible—

1 “(1) to serve in the National Health Service
2 Corps; and
3 “(2) to participate in the National Health Serv-
4 ice Corps Scholarship Program under section 338A
5 or the National Health Service Corps Loan Repay-
6 ment Program under section 338B.”.

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