

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3760

To amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to strengthen the mental health workforce, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 31, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana (for himself, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. IVEY, Mrs. MCCLELLAN, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. BROWN, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CARSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. MFUME, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, and Ms. KELLY of Illinois) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to strengthen the mental health workforce, 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. STRENGTHENING THE MENTAL HEALTH WORK-**
2 **FORCE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title VII of the Public
4 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended
5 by adding at the end the following:

6 **“SEC. 742. STRENGTHENING THE MENTAL HEALTH WORK-**
7 **FORCE.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish
9 and carry out a mental health provider loan deferment and
10 forgiveness program under which the eligible individual
11 agrees to be employed full-time for a period of at least
12 5 years (beginning on the date on which the individual
13 graduates from medical school) in providing mental and
14 behavioral health care, including substance abuse preven-
15 tion and treatment services—

16 “(1) as a solo practitioner—

17 “(A) at least 30 percent of the patients of
18 which are individuals receiving medical assist-
19 ance under a State plan under title XIX of the
20 Social Security Act (or a waiver of such plan);
21 and

22 “(B) at least 50 percent of the patients of
23 which are members of a racial and ethnic mi-
24 nority group (as defined in section 1707); or

25 “(2) at an institution that accepts patients de-
26 scribed in paragraph (1)(A) and at which at least 50

1 percent of the patients served by the institution are
2 members of a racial and ethnic minority group (as
3 defined in section 1707).

4 “(b) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—Through the pro-
5 gram established under this section, the Secretary shall
6 enter into contracts with eligible individuals under
7 which—

8 “(1) such eligible individuals will agree to pro-
9 vide mental and behavioral health care services as
10 described in subsection (a);

11 “(2) the Secretary agrees that periodic install-
12 ments of the principal of an eligible loan need not
13 be paid, but interest shall accrue and be paid, dur-
14 ing any period during which the borrower is em-
15 ployed as described in subsection (a); and

16 “(3) the Secretary, through the holder of the
17 loan, will assume the obligation to repay the lesser
18 of 100 percent or \$200,000 of the total amount of
19 principal and interest of an eligible loan, that are
20 outstanding as of the day immediately preceding the
21 first day of the first year of service (as described in
22 subsection (a)), for an eligible individual, who—

23 “(A) has been employed as described in
24 subsection (a) for 5 consecutive years; and

1 “(B) is not in default on a loan for which
2 the individual seeks forgiveness.

3 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) The term ‘eligible individual’ means an in-
5 dividual who—

6 “(A)(i) has been accepted for enrollment,
7 or be enrolled, as a student in a minority-serv-
8 ing institution eligible to receive funding under
9 section 371 of the Higher Education Act of
10 1965 in a course of study or program leading
11 to a mental or behavioral health professions de-
12 gree or certificate; or

13 “(ii) is completing training hours under
14 clinical supervision for purposes of obtaining
15 such a degree or certificate; and

16 “(B) has accepted employment as de-
17 scribed in subsection (a), to commence upon
18 graduation.

19 “(2) The term ‘eligible loan’ means—

20 “(A) any loan for education or training for
21 mental and behavioral health care, including
22 substance abuse prevention and treatment, em-
23 ployment;

24 “(B) any Federal Direct Stafford Loan,
25 Federal Direct PLUS Loan, Federal Direct

1 Unsubsidized Stafford Loan, or Federal Direct
2 Consolidation Loan (as such terms are used in
3 section 455 of the Higher Education Act of
4 1965);

5 “(C) any Federal Perkins Loan under part
6 E of title I of the Higher Education Act of
7 1965; and

8 “(D) any other Federal loan as determined
9 appropriate by the Secretary.”.

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