

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4169

To establish and support primary care team education centers, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 18, 2024

Mr. KAINE introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish and support primary care team education centers, 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 “Primary Care Team  
5 Education Centers Act” or the “PCTEC Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. PURPOSES.**

7 The purposes of this Act are—

8 (1) to establish and expand primary care team  
9 education centers to—

1 (A) enhance and support the capacity of  
2 community-based ambulatory patient care cen-  
3 ters to serve as sites to develop the next genera-  
4 tion of health professionals to care for the  
5 needs of communities; and

6 (B) develop and implement innovative em-  
7 ployment, appointment, and compensation mod-  
8 els to enhance and expand preceptors in pri-  
9 mary care; and

10 (2) to improve access to care by ensuring that  
11 more health professional students have clinical edu-  
12 cation experiences in multidisciplinary primary care  
13 settings.

14 **SEC. 3. PRIMARY CARE TEAM EDUCATION CENTERS.**

15 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part P of title III of the Public  
16 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended  
17 by adding at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 399V-8. SUPPORT AND DEVELOPMENT OF PRIMARY  
19 CARE TEAM EDUCATION CENTERS.**

20 “(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary may  
21 award grants to eligible entities for the purpose of estab-  
22 lishing and expanding primary care team education cen-  
23 ters.

24 “(b) AMOUNT AND DURATION.—A grant awarded  
25 under subsection (a) shall be for a term of not more than

1 5 years and the maximum grant award may not be more  
2 than \$1,000,000 a year.

3 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a  
4 grant under subsection (a) shall use grant funds to estab-  
5 lish or expand a primary care team education center to—

6 “(1) develop or enhance partnerships with insti-  
7 tutions of higher education that provide a recognized  
8 postsecondary credential in health care, or health  
9 care organizations that the Secretary has determined  
10 are capable of carrying out such a grant or contract,  
11 to—

12 “(A) address clinical faculty, clinical site,  
13 and clinical preceptor shortages for health pro-  
14 fessionals by—

15 “(i) establishing mutually beneficial  
16 and sustainable agreements for precepting  
17 by the clinical staff of the primary care  
18 team education center, through innovative  
19 employment, appointment, and compensa-  
20 tion models designed to enhance—

21 “(I) recruitment and retention of  
22 such staff; and

23 “(II) the role of such staff in en-  
24 suring the effectiveness and sustain-  
25 ability of the clinical site as part of

1 the health professional student clinical  
2 education of a partnering entity; and

3 “(ii) implementing a plan to address  
4 recruitment and retention of primary care  
5 team education center clinical staff who  
6 have entered into agreements under clause  
7 (i), which may include paying preceptor  
8 salaries; and

9 “(B) support health professional student  
10 training in primary care by—

11 “(i) implementing curricula to inte-  
12 grate health professional student clinical  
13 education into primary care team edu-  
14 cation centers, including strategies to ad-  
15 dress health professional well-being and  
16 mental health; and

17 “(ii) providing support for health pro-  
18 fessional students, including assistance for  
19 housing near, or transportation to or from,  
20 the clinical site during the clinical training  
21 period;

22 “(2) integrate and expand the role of health  
23 professionals not traditionally involved in the eligible  
24 entity’s primary care team, such as school nurses in  
25 elementary or secondary schools and community

1 health workers, as part of the service continuum of  
2 the primary care team education center; and

3 “(3) promote career advancement for health  
4 professionals employed by the primary care team  
5 education center.

6 “(d) AWARD BASIS.—In selecting recipients for  
7 grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give pri-  
8 ority to grant applications that—

9 “(1) demonstrate how the program to be sup-  
10 ported under the grant will, for the region to be  
11 served—

12 “(A) identify the health professions with  
13 labor shortages; and

14 “(B) increase the number of health profes-  
15 sionals with disadvantaged backgrounds work-  
16 ing in such health professions; and

17 “(2) provide preceptor training and support to  
18 encourage eligible preceptors to participate in clin-  
19 ical training, including nurses and advanced practice  
20 nurses.

21 “(e) LIMITATION.—The recipient of a grant under  
22 section 749A or 340H shall not be eligible to receive a  
23 grant under subsection (a).

24 “(f) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, di-  
2           rectly or through grants or contracts, provide tech-  
3           nical assistance for eligible entities receiving grants  
4           under subsection (a).

5           “(2) LIMITATION.—For each year, the Sec-  
6           retary shall use not more than 5 percent of the  
7           amount made available to carry out this section for  
8           technical assistance under this subsection.

9           “(g) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit  
10          an annual report to Congress on the grants awarded under  
11          subsection (a). Each such report shall, at a minimum, in-  
12          clude—

13                 “(1) the total number of grants awarded under  
14                 subsection (a);

15                 “(2) a description of the primary care team  
16                 education centers supported under each such grant;

17                 “(3) the number of students, by profession, who  
18                 engaged in such primary care team education cen-  
19                 ters during the applicable academic year, in the ag-  
20                 gregate and disaggregated by grantee;

21                 “(4) in the aggregate and disaggregated by  
22                 grantee—

23                         “(A) the number of health professional  
24                         staff at such primary care team education cen-

1           ters engaged in classroom teaching or clinical  
2           precepting under the grant;

3           “(B) an estimate of the number of teach-  
4           ing or precepting hours provided under the  
5           grant;

6           “(C) the number of health professional  
7           students, and the number of advanced practice  
8           nursing students, trained under the grant; and

9           “(D) the number of health care profes-  
10          sional preceptors recruited and retained under  
11          the grant; and

12          “(5) a description of how each grantee met the  
13          needs of the health professionals served under the  
14          grant

15          “(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16               “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-  
17               tity’ means an entity described in any of clauses (i)  
18               through (v) of section 749A(g)(3)(B).

19               “(2) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—  
20               The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the  
21               meaning given the term in section 102 of the Higher  
22               Education Act of 1965.

23               “(3) PRECEPTOR.—The term ‘preceptor’ means  
24               a health professional who provides supervision and  
25               personalized experiential learning training and in-

1       struction and mentoring opportunities in the clinical  
 2       practice of a health profession to a student in a  
 3       health profession.

4               “(4) PRIMARY CARE TEAM.—The term ‘primary  
 5       care team’ means a team of 2 or more health pro-  
 6       viders who provide health services to individuals,  
 7       families, or communities by working collaboratively  
 8       with patients and their caregivers, to the extent pre-  
 9       ferred by each patient, to accomplish shared goals  
 10       within and across settings in order to achieve coordi-  
 11       nated, high-quality care.

12       “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
 13       authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

14               “(1) \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2025;

15               “(2) \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 2026;

16               “(3) \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

17               “(4) such sums as may be necessary for each  
 18       fiscal year thereafter.”.

19       (b) LIMITATION ON ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER TEACH-  
 20       ING HEALTH CENTER DEVELOPMENT GRANTS.—

21               (1) SECTION 749A.—Section 749A of the Public  
 22       Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 2931–1) is amend-  
 23       ed—

24               (A) by redesignating subsections (f) and  
 25       (g) as subsections (g) and (h), respectively; and



1 (B) by inserting after subsection (e) the  
2 following:

3 “(f) LIMITATION.—A recipient of a grant under sec-  
4 tion 399V–8 shall not be eligible to receive a grant under  
5 this section.”.

6 (2) GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM  
7 TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS.—Section 340H(a) of  
8 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(a))  
9 is amended by adding at the end the following:

10 “(4) LIMITATION.—A recipient of a grant  
11 under section 399V–8 shall not be eligible to receive  
12 a payment under this section.”.

13 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
14 760(c)(2)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42  
15 U.S.C. 294k(c)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “sec-  
16 tion 749A(f)” and inserting “section 749A(g)”.

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