

Calendar No. 529

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION**S. 4110**

To revise and extend health workforce programs under title VII of the
Public Health Service Act.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 17, 2026

Mr. REED (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Edu-
cation, Labor, and Pensions

JULY 28, 2026

Reported by Mr. CASSIDY, with an amendment

[Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert the part printed in italic]

A BILL

To revise and extend health workforce programs under title
VII of the Public Health Service Act.

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 “Educating Medical
5 Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and

1 Readiness for Health Act” or the “EMPOWER for Health
2 Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**
4 **WORKFORCE PROGRAMS.**

5 Title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
6 292 et seq.) is amended—

7 (1) in section 736(i) (42 U.S.C. 293(i)), by
8 striking “\$23,711,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
9 through 2025” and inserting “\$28,422,000 for each
10 of fiscal years 2026 through 2030”;

11 (2) in section 740 (42 U.S.C. 293d)—

12 (A) in subsection (a), by striking
13 “\$51,470,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
14 through 2025” and inserting “\$55,014,000 for
15 each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030”;

16 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “appro-
17 priated, \$1,190,000 for each of fiscal years
18 2021 through 2025” and inserting “appro-
19 priated \$2,310,000 for each of fiscal years
20 2026 through 2030”;

21 (C) in subsection (c), by striking
22 “\$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
23 through 2025” and inserting “\$16,000,000 for
24 each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030”; and

1 (D) in subsection (d), by striking “Sep-
 2 tember 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30,
 3 2030”;

4 (3) in section 747(c)(1) (42 U.S.C. 293k(c)(1)),
 5 by striking “\$48,924,000 for each of fiscal years
 6 2021 through 2025” and inserting “\$49,924,000 for
 7 each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030”;

8 (4) in section 748(f) (42 U.S.C. 293k-2(f)), by
 9 striking “\$28,531,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
 10 through 2025” and inserting “\$42,673,000 for each
 11 of fiscal years 2026 through 2030”;

12 (5) in section 751(j)(1) (42 U.S.C. 294a(j)(1)),
 13 by striking “\$41,250,000 for each of fiscal years
 14 2021 through 2025” and inserting “\$47,000,000 for
 15 each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030”;

16 (6) in section 753(d) (42 U.S.C. 294e(d)), by
 17 striking “\$40,737,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
 18 through 2025” and inserting “\$48,245,000 for each
 19 of fiscal years 2026 through 2030”;

20 (7) in section 761(e)(1)(A) (42 U.S.C.
 21 294n(e)(1)(A)), by striking “2021 through 2025”
 22 and inserting “2026 through 2030”;

23 (8) in section 762(i) (42 U.S.C. 294o(i)), by
 24 striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “Sep-
 25 tember 30, 2030”;

1 (9) in section 770(a) (42 U.S.C. 295e(a)), by
 2 striking “\$17,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
 3 through 2025” and inserting “\$18,000,000 for each
 4 of fiscal years 2026 through 2030”;

5 (10) in section 775(e) (42 U.S.C. 295f(e)), by
 6 striking “is authorized to be appropriated such sums
 7 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2021
 8 through 2025.” and inserting the following: “are au-
 9 thorized to be appropriated for each of fiscal years
 10 2026 through 2030—

11 “(1) to carry out subsection (e)(1)(A),
 12 \$5,000,000; and

13 “(2) to carry out subsection (e)(1)(B),
 14 \$5,000,000.”; and

15 (11) in section 776(i) (42 U.S.C. 295f-1(i)), by
 16 striking “2023 through 2025” and inserting “2026
 17 through 2030”.

18 **SEC. 3. INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW’S PEDIATRIC HEALTH**

19 **CARE WORKFORCE.**

20 Section 775 of the Public Health Service Act (42
 21 U.S.C. 295f) is amended—

22 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “be employed
 23 full-time” and inserting “perform full-time service”;

24 (2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “in an area with a shortage of the specified pediatric subspecialty that has a sufficient pediatric population to support such pediatric subspecialty, as determined by the Secretary” and inserting “to underserved children or in an area with a shortage of the specified pediatric subspecialty”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—

(i) by striking “employment” and inserting “service”; and

(ii) by striking “an area or” and inserting “a”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through the paragraph designation and heading in paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(c) ELIGIBILITY.—

“(1) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.—In this section:”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (I) in the matter preceding clause
 2 (i), by inserting “under this section”
 3 after “contracts”; and

4 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
 5 “subparagraph (B)” and inserting
 6 “clause (i)”; and

7 (ii) in subparagraph (B), in the mat-
 8 ter preceding clause (i), by inserting
 9 “under this section” after “contracts”; and
 10 (C) in paragraph (2)—

11 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
 12 graph (A), by striking “this subsection
 13 with an eligible individual” and inserting
 14 “this section with a qualified health profes-
 15 sional”;

16 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

17 (I) by striking “individual” and
 18 inserting “qualified health profes-
 19 sional”; and

20 (II) by striking “medically under-
 21 served population” and inserting
 22 “medically underserved pediatric pop-
 23 ulation (including children enrolled in
 24 the Medicaid program under title XIX
 25 of the Social Security Act)”; and

1 (iii) in each of subparagraphs (B) and
 2 (C), by striking “individual” and inserting
 3 “qualified health professional”;

4 (4) by redesignating subsection (e) (as amended
 5 by section 2(10)) as subsection (f); and

6 (5) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
 7 lowing:

8 “(e) FULL-TIME SERVICE OBLIGATIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to qualified
 10 health professionals described in subparagraphs
 11 (A)(ii) and (B) of subsection (e)(1) who enter into
 12 contracts under this section, the Secretary shall es-
 13 tablish requirements for full-time service that are
 14 consistent with the practice standards, including re-
 15 search and teaching obligations, of the applicable pe-
 16 diatric medical subspecialty, pediatric surgical spe-
 17 cialty, or child and adolescent mental and behavioral
 18 health care field in which such qualified health pro-
 19 fessional practices.

20 “(2) FELLOWSHIPS OR RESIDENCIES.—With re-
 21 spect to qualified health professionals described in
 22 subsection (e)(1)(A)(i), the Secretary shall establish
 23 requirements for full-time service that are consistent
 24 with the requirements of the accrediting body for the

1 applicable residency or fellowship for full-time serv-
 2 ice.”.

3 **SEC. 4. AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS.**

4 Section 751 of the Public Health Service Act (42
 5 U.S.C. 294a) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (c)(1)(G), by striking “high
 7 school” and inserting “pre-collegiate”; and

8 (2) in subsection (h)(1)—

9 (A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “12
 10 years” and inserting “2 award cycles”; and

11 (B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “6
 12 years” and inserting “1 award cycle”.

13 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

14 *This Act may be cited as the “Educating Medical Pro-*
 15 *fessionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and Read-*
 16 *iness for Health Act” or the “EMPOWER for Health Act”.*

17 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS**
 18 **WORKFORCE PROGRAMS.**

19 *Title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.*
 20 *292 et seq.) is amended—*

21 (1) in section 736(i) (42 U.S.C. 293(i)), by strik-
 22 ing “\$23,711,000 for each of fiscal years 2021 through
 23 2025” and inserting “\$25,422,000 for each of fiscal
 24 years 2027 through 2031”;

25 (2) in section 740 (42 U.S.C. 293d)—

1 (A) in subsection (a), by striking
 2 “\$51,470,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
 3 through 2025” and inserting “\$55,014,000 for
 4 each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031”;

5 (B) in subsection (b), by striking “appro-
 6 priated, \$1,190,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
 7 through 2025” and inserting “appropriated
 8 \$2,310,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
 9 2031”;

10 (C) in subsection (c), by striking “fiscal
 11 years 2021 through 2025” and inserting “fiscal
 12 years 2027 through 2031”; and

13 (D) in subsection (d), by striking “Sep-
 14 tember 30, 2025” and inserting “September 30,
 15 2031”;

16 (3) in section 747(c)(1) (42 U.S.C. 293k(c)(1)),
 17 by striking “\$48,924,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
 18 through 2025” and inserting “\$49,924,000 for each of
 19 fiscal years 2027 through 2031”;

20 (4) in section 748(f) (42 U.S.C. 293k–2(f)), by
 21 striking “\$28,531,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
 22 through 2025” and inserting “\$43,673,000 for each of
 23 fiscal years 2027 through 2031”;

24 (5) in section 751(j)(1) (42 U.S.C. 294a(j)(1)),
 25 by striking “\$41,250,000 for each of fiscal years 2021

1 *through 2025” and inserting “\$47,000,000 for each of*
 2 *fiscal years 2027 through 2031”;*

3 (6) *in section 753(d) (42 U.S.C. 294c(d)), by*
 4 *striking “\$40,737,000 for each of fiscal years 2021*
 5 *through 2025” and inserting “\$48,245,000 for each of*
 6 *fiscal years 2027 through 2031”;*

7 (7) *in section 761(e)(1)(A) (42 U.S.C.*
 8 *294n(e)(1)(A)), by striking “2021 through 2025” and*
 9 *inserting “2027 through 2031”;*

10 (8) *in section 762(i) (42 U.S.C. 294o(i)), by*
 11 *striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “Sep-*
 12 *tember 30, 2031”;*

13 (9) *in section 770(a) (42 U.S.C. 295e(a)), by*
 14 *striking “\$17,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021*
 15 *through 2025” and inserting “\$18,000,000 for each of*
 16 *fiscal years 2027 through 2031”;*

17 (10) *in section 775(e) (42 U.S.C. 295f(e)), by*
 18 *striking “such sums as may be necessary for each of*
 19 *fiscal years 2021 through 2025.” and inserting “to*
 20 *carry out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal*
 21 *years 2027 through 2031, to remain available until*
 22 *expended.”; and*

23 (11) *in section 776(i) (42 U.S.C. 295f–1(i)), by*
 24 *striking “2023 through 2025” and inserting “2027*
 25 *through 2031”.*

1 **SEC. 3. INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW'S PEDIATRIC HEALTH**
 2 **CARE WORKFORCE.**

3 *Section 775 of the Public Health Service Act (42*
 4 *U.S.C. 295f) is amended—*

5 *(1) in subsection (a), by striking “be employed*
 6 *full-time” and inserting “perform full-time service”;*

7 *(2) in subsection (b)—*

8 *(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “to un-*
 9 *derserved pediatric populations, or to provide*
 10 *such care” before “in an area”; and*

11 *(B) in paragraph (2)(B)—*

12 *(i) by striking “employment” and in-*
 13 *serting “service”; and*

14 *(ii) by striking “serving an area or*
 15 *population described in such paragraph”;*

16 *(3) in subsection (c)—*

17 *(A) by striking the subsection designation*
 18 *and heading and all that follows through the*
 19 *paragraph designation and heading in para-*
 20 *graph (1) and inserting the following:*

21 *“(c) ELIGIBILITY.—*

22 *“(1) DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED HEALTH PRO-*
 23 *FESSIONAL.—In this section:”;*

24 *(B) in paragraph (1)—*

25 *(i) in subparagraph (A)—*

1 (I) in the matter preceding clause
2 (i), by inserting “under this section”
3 after “contracts”; and

4 (II) in clause (ii), by striking
5 “subparagraph (B)” and inserting
6 “clause (i)”; and
7 (ii) in subparagraph (B)—

8 (I) in the matter preceding clause
9 (i), by inserting “under this section”
10 after “contracts”;

11 (II) in clause (i), by striking “or
12 professional counseling” and inserting
13 “professional counseling, or such other
14 pediatric mental or behavioral health
15 discipline as the Secretary determines
16 appropriate”; and

17 (III) in clause (ii), by striking
18 “or professional counseling” and in-
19 serting “professional counseling, or
20 such other pediatric mental or behav-
21 ioral health discipline as the Secretary
22 determines appropriate”; and

23 (C) in paragraph (2)—

24 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
25 graph (A), by striking “this subsection with

1 *an eligible individual” and inserting “this*
 2 *section with a qualified health profes-*
 3 *sional”;*

4 *(ii) in subparagraph (A)—*

5 *(I) by striking “individual” and*
 6 *inserting “qualified health profes-*
 7 *sional”; and*

8 *(II) by striking “medically under-*
 9 *served population” and inserting*
 10 *“medically underserved pediatric pop-*
 11 *ulation (including children enrolled in*
 12 *the Medicaid program under title XIX*
 13 *of the Social Security Act)”;* and

14 *(iii) in each of subparagraphs (B) and*
 15 *(C), by striking “individual” and inserting*
 16 *“qualified health professional”;*

17 *(4) by redesignating subsection (e) (as amended*
 18 *by section 2(10)) as subsection (h); and*

19 *(5) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-*
 20 *lowing:*

21 *“(e) FULL-TIME SERVICE OBLIGATIONS.—*

22 *“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to qualified*
 23 *health professionals described in subsection*
 24 *(c)(1)(A)(i), qualified health professionals described in*
 25 *subsection (c)(1)(A)(ii) (including those who have*

1 *completed their residency or fellowship and have ad-*
 2 *ditional time remaining on their contract), and*
 3 *qualified health professionals described in subsection*
 4 *(c)(1)(B), the Secretary, in consultation with organi-*
 5 *zations representing qualified pediatric health profes-*
 6 *sionals and service sites, shall establish requirements*
 7 *for full-time service that include, at a minimum, a*
 8 *requirement that half of the required service hours per*
 9 *contract year must be providing direct clinical care.*
 10 *In establishing such requirements, the Secretary shall*
 11 *ensure that such requirements take into account the*
 12 *research and teaching obligations of fellows in accred-*
 13 *ited pediatric residency and fellowship programs.*

14 “(2) *FELLOWSHIPS OR RESIDENCIES.*—With re-
 15 *spect to qualified health professionals described in*
 16 *subsection (c)(1)(A)(i), the Secretary shall establish*
 17 *requirements for full-time service that are consistent*
 18 *with the requirements of the accrediting body for the*
 19 *applicable residency or fellowship for full-time service.*
 20 “(f) *BREACH OF CONTRACT.*—

21 “(1) *LIQUIDATED DAMAGES FORMULA.*—The Sec-
 22 *retary may establish a liquidated damages formula to*
 23 *be used in the event of a breach of a contract entered*
 24 *into under this section.*

1 “(2) *LIMITATION.*—*The failure by an individual*
 2 *to complete the full period of service obligated pursu-*
 3 *ant to a contract entered into under this section,*
 4 *taken alone, shall not constitute a breach of such con-*
 5 *tract, so long as the individual completed in good*
 6 *faith the years of service for which payments were*
 7 *made to the individual under this section.*

8 “(g) *TERMINATION OF CONTRACT.*—*The Secretary*
 9 *may terminate a contract under this section in the same*
 10 *manner as the Secretary may terminate a contract entered*
 11 *into under section 338B.”.*

12 **SEC. 4. AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS.**

13 *Section 751(c)(1)(G) of the Public Health Service Act*
 14 *(42 U.S.C. 294a(c)(1)(G)) is amended by inserting “middle*
 15 *school and” before “high school”.*

16 **SEC. 5. STATE AND REGIONAL CENTERS FOR HEALTH**
 17 **WORKFORCE ANALYSIS.**

18 (a) *EXPANSION OF COVERED PROGRAMS.*—*Section*
 19 *761(c)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.*
 20 *294n(c)(1)(A)) is amended by striking “under this title”*
 21 *and inserting “under this Act”.*

22 (b) *ANALYSIS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.*—*Section*
 23 *761(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294n(c))*
 24 *is amended by adding at the end the following:*

1 “(3) *MINIMUM REQUIREMENT.—At least one*
 2 *grant or contract awarded under this subsection may*
 3 *be awarded to an eligible entity that demonstrates—*

4 “(A) *a mission to advance and support the*
 5 *nursing workforce;*

6 “(B) *experience and expertise in guiding*
 7 *State-level nursing workforce centers;*

8 “(C) *experience in working with nursing*
 9 *workforce data;*

10 “(D) *expertise in analytical methods and*
 11 *tools appropriate for nursing workforce research;*
 12 *and*

13 “(E) *awareness of emerging topics, issues,*
 14 *and trends related to the nursing workforce.*

15 “(4) *ANALYSIS AND REPORTING.—Analysis and*
 16 *reporting carried out pursuant to a grant or contract*
 17 *under this subsection may include—*

18 “(A) *collaborating with nursing workforce*
 19 *centers to produce or deliver educational mate-*
 20 *rials and research with respect to the supply of*
 21 *nurses, the demand for nurses, and the capacity*
 22 *to educate and train the nursing workforce;*

23 “(B) *evaluating the programs and activities*
 24 *of the nursing workforce centers overall;*

1 “(C) *developing evidence-based or evidence-*
 2 *informed strategies and best practices to alleviate*
 3 *nursing workforce shortages across States and re-*
 4 *gions; and*

5 “(D) *conducting rapid data analysis and*
 6 *short-term, issue-specific research.*

7 “(5) *TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—Technical assist-*
 8 *ance provided pursuant to this subsection may in-*
 9 *clude—*

10 “(A) *providing technical assistance to nurs-*
 11 *ing workforce centers on the collection, analysis,*
 12 *and reporting of standardized supply, demand,*
 13 *and education and training data to inform anal-*
 14 *ysis conducted pursuant to this subsection;*

15 “(B) *collaborating with nursing workforce*
 16 *centers to identify and deliver evidence-based or*
 17 *evidence-informed strategies to alleviate nursing*
 18 *shortages and the maldistribution of nurses;*

19 “(C) *providing online and in-person train-*
 20 *ing opportunities for nurses and other staff at*
 21 *nursing workforce centers; and*

22 “(D) *developing and maintaining a website*
 23 *that—*

24 “(i) *is accessible to grant and contract*
 25 *recipients under this section;*

1 “(ii) supports resources for the provi-
2 sion of technical assistance under this sec-
3 tion, such as—

4 “(I) evidence-based or evidence-in-
5 formed educational materials, tools, re-
6 cent findings of interest, and links to
7 relevant resources; and

8 “(II) logistical and administra-
9 tive information, such as online
10 trainings, webinars, and publications;
11 and

12 “(iii) includes a publicly accessible re-
13 pository of webinars, tools, and resources.”.

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A BILL

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JULY 28, 2026

Reported with an amendment