

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5207

To amend the Public Health Service Act to maintain the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3, 2026

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to maintain the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program, 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 “RCORP Authorization
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 Subpart I of part D of title III of the Public Health
4 Service Act is amended by inserting after section 330A–
5 2 (42 U.S.C. 254e–1b) the following:

6 **“SEC. 330A-3. RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE**
7 **PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
9 through the Administrator of the Health Resources and
10 Services Administration (in this section referred to as the
11 ‘Administrator’), shall maintain a program to be known
12 as the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program to
13 establish and expand prevention, treatment, and recovery
14 services in rural areas (as defined by the Secretary) for
15 substance use disorders (including opioid use disorder), re-
16 lated behavioral health conditions, and other related public
17 health issues.

18 “(b) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pro-
20 gram under this section, the Administrator may
21 award grants or cooperative agreements to eligible
22 entities.

23 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that
24 receives a grant or cooperative agreement under this
25 section may use funds received through such grant
26 or cooperative agreement to—

1 “(A) conduct planning activities to
2 strengthen the capacity of cross-sector networks
3 and improve coordination of resources and care
4 involving substance use disorder;

5 “(B) identify and implement evidence-
6 based and sustainable delivery models to pro-
7 vide direct prevention, treatment, and recovery
8 services;

9 “(C) respond to new and emerging public
10 health issues involving substance use disorder;

11 “(D) provide targeted technical assistance
12 or evaluation activities with respect to grants or
13 cooperative agreements awarded under this sec-
14 tion; or

15 “(E) engage in such other activities as the
16 Secretary may determine appropriate to carry
17 out the program under this section.

18 “(3) PROHIBITED USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible
19 entity that is awarded a grant or cooperative agree-
20 ment under this section may not use funds provided
21 through such grant or cooperative agreement for the
22 acquisition or improvement of real property.

23 “(4) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
24 grant or cooperative agreement under this section,
25 an entity shall be—

1 “(A) a State;

2 “(B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
3 tion (as such terms are defined in section 4 of
4 the Indian Self-Determination and Education
5 Assistance Act);

6 “(C) a State office of rural health; or

7 “(D) any other domestic entity.

8 “(5) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant or cooper-
9 ative agreement under this section, an eligible entity
10 shall submit to the Administrator an application at
11 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
12 formation as the Administrator may require, includ-
13 ing a description of how the rural population in the
14 local community or region to be served will be in-
15 volved in the development and ongoing operations of
16 such activities, as applicable.

17 “(6) GRANT PERIOD.—The Administrator may
18 not award a grant or cooperative agreement under
19 this section for a period of more than 5 years.

20 “(7) FUNDING.—The Administrator may fully
21 fund a grant or cooperative agreement made under
22 this section at the time of the award.

23 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
24 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section

1 \$165,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
2 2031.”.

