

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 5232

To amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize rural residency planning and development grant programs, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 4, 2026

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Ms. COLLINS) 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 authorize rural residency planning and development grant programs, 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 “Rural Residency Plan-
5 ning and Development Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
 2 **PROGRAMS.**

3 Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 4 241 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 330A–
 5 2 (42 U.S.C. 254e–1b) the following:

6 **“SEC. 330A–3. RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOP-**
 7 **MENT PROGRAM AND RURAL RESIDENCY**
 8 **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL**
 9 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

10 “(a) RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOP-
 11 MENT PROGRAM.—

12 “(1) GRANTS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
 14 award grants to eligible entities to establish new
 15 rural residency programs (including adding new
 16 rural training sites to existing rural track pro-
 17 grams).

18 “(B) FUNDING.—Grants awarded under
 19 this subsection may be fully funded at the time
 20 of the award.

21 “(C) TERM.—The term of a grant under
 22 this subsection shall be 3 years and may be ex-
 23 tended at the discretion of the Secretary.

24 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—

25 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
 26 ceive a grant under this subsection, an eligible

entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, including a description of the pathway of the rural residency program as described in subparagraph (B).

“(B) PATHWAY.—A pathway of a rural residency program supported under this subsection shall be for—

“(i) general primary care and high-need specialty care, including family medicine, internal medicine, preventive medicine, psychiatry, or general surgery;

“(ii) maternal health and obstetrics, which may be obstetrics and gynecology or family medicine with enhanced obstetrical training; or

“(iii) any other pathway as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(b) RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

“(1) GRANTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities to provide technical assistance to awardees and potential appli-

1 cants of the program described in subsection
2 (a).

3 “(B) FUNDING.—Grants awarded under
4 this subsection may be fully funded at the time
5 of the award.

6 “(C) TERM.—The term of a grant under
7 this subsection shall be 4 years and may be ex-
8 tended at the discretion of the Secretary.

9 “(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
10 grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall
11 prepare and submit to the Secretary an application
12 at such time, in such manner, and containing such
13 information as the Secretary may require.

14 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

15 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
16 tity’—

17 “(A) means—

18 “(i) a domestic public or private non-
19 profit or for-profit entity; or

20 “(ii) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organi-
21 zation; and

22 “(B) may include faith-based or commu-
23 nity-based organizations, rural hospitals, rural
24 community-based ambulatory patient care cen-
25 ters (including rural health clinics), health cen-

ters operated by an Indian Tribe, Tribal organization, or urban Indian organization, graduate medical education consortiums (including institutions of higher education, such as schools of allopathic medicine, schools of osteopathic medicine, or historically Black colleges or universities), or other organizations as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(2) RURAL RESIDENCY PROGRAM.—The term ‘rural residency program’ means a physician residency program, including a rural track program, accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (or a similar body) that—

“(A) trains residents in rural areas (as defined by the Secretary) for more than 50 percent of the total time of their residency; and

“(B) primarily focuses on producing physicians who will practice in rural areas, as defined by the Secretary.

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$12,700,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2031.

1 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated
2 under paragraph (1) shall remain available until ex-
3 pended.”.

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