

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1402

To amend the Social Security Act to establish a community health aide program for Alaskan communities that do not qualify for the Community Health Aide Program for Alaska operated through the Indian Health Service.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

NOVEMBER 7, 1997

Mr. MURKOWSKI introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the Social Security Act to establish a community health aide program for Alaskan communities that do not qualify for the Community Health Aide Program for Alaska operated through the Indian Health Service.

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 “Alaskan Community
5 Health Aide Program Expansion Act of 1997”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) Numerous communities in Alaska have no
2 physicians or health care providers of any kind.

3 (2) While those communities are served by
4 Alaskan public health nurses on an itinerant basis,
5 Alaskan law prohibits those nurses from treating pa-
6 tients for individual health concerns.

7 (3) Physical and cultural isolation is so severe
8 in those communities that private health care provid-
9 ers often opt not to serve those communities.

10 (4) Not enough Native Alaskans reside in such
11 communities to warrant placement of a community
12 health aide pursuant to the Community Health Aide
13 Program for Alaska operated through the Indian
14 Health Service.

15 **SEC. 3. EXPANSION OF THE COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE**
16 **PROGRAM FOR ALASKA.**

17 Part A of title XI of the Social Security Act (42
18 U.S.C. 1301–1320b–16), as amended by section 4321(c)
19 of the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 (42 U.S.C. 1320b–
20 16), is amended by adding at the end the following:

21 “ALASKAN COMMUNITY HEALTH AIDE PROGRAM

22 “SEC. 1147. Not later than October 1, 1998, the Sec-
23 retary shall establish an Alaskan Community Health Aide
24 Program (in this section referred to as the ‘Program’)
25 under which the Secretary shall—

1 “(1) provide for the training of Alaskans as
2 community health aides or community health practi-
3 tioners;

4 “(2) use such aides or practitioners in the pro-
5 vision of health care, health promotion, and disease
6 prevention services to Alaskans living in commu-
7 nities that do not qualify for the Community Health
8 Aide Program for Alaska operated through the In-
9 dian Health Service and established under section
10 119 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25
11 U.S.C. 1616l);

12 “(3) provide for the establishment of teleconfer-
13 encing capacity in health clinics located in or near
14 such communities for use by community health aides
15 or community health practitioners;

16 “(4) using trainers accredited under the Pro-
17 gram, provide a high standard of training to commu-
18 nity health aides and community health practitioners
19 to ensure that such aides and practitioners provide
20 quality health care, health promotion, and disease
21 prevention services to the Alaskan communities
22 served by the Program;

23 “(5) develop a curriculum for the training of
24 such aides and practitioners that—

1 “(A) combines education in the theory of
2 health care with supervised practical experience
3 in the provision of health care; and

4 “(B) provides instruction and practical ex-
5 perience in the provision of acute care, emer-
6 gency care, health promotion, disease preven-
7 tion, and the efficient and effective manage-
8 ment of clinic pharmacies, supplies, equipment,
9 and facilities;

10 “(6) establish and maintain a Community
11 Health Aide Certification Board to certify as com-
12 munity health aides or community health practition-
13 ers individuals who have successfully completed the
14 training described in paragraphs (4) and (5), or can
15 demonstrate equivalent experience;

16 “(7) develop and maintain a system which iden-
17 tifies the needs of community health aides and com-
18 munity health practitioners for continuing education
19 in the provision of health care, including the areas
20 described in paragraph (5)(B), and develop pro-
21 grams that meet the needs for such continuing edu-
22 cation;

23 “(8) develop and maintain a system that pro-
24 vides close supervision of community health aides
25 and community health practitioners; and

1 “(9) develop a system under which the work of
2 community health aides and community health prac-
3 titioners is reviewed and evaluated to ensure the pro-
4 vision of quality health care, health promotion, and
5 disease prevention services in accordance with this
6 section.”.

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