

107TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1948

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the shortage of medical laboratory personnel.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 22, 2001

Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the shortage of medical laboratory personnel.

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 “Medical Laboratory
5 Personnel Shortage Act of 2001”.

1 **SEC. 2. RESPONSE TO SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL LABORA-**
2 **TORY PERSONNEL; PROGRAMS OF HEALTH**
3 **RESOURCES AND SERVICES ADMINISTRA-**
4 **TION.**

5 (a) **NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS SCHOLAR-**
6 **SHIP AND LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS.—**

7 (1) **SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.**—Section
8 338A(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42
9 U.S.C. 254l(a)(1)) is amended—

10 (A) by striking “and” after “practi-
11 tioners,”; and

12 (B) by inserting before the semicolon the
13 following: “, and (within the meaning of section
14 799B(12)) medical technologists and medical
15 laboratory technicians”.

16 (2) **LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**—Section
17 338B(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42
18 U.S.C. 254l-1(a)(1)) is amended—

19 (A) by striking “and” after “practi-
20 tioners,”; and

21 (B) by inserting before the semicolon the
22 following: “, and (within the meaning of section
23 799B(12)) medical technologists and medical
24 laboratory technicians”.

25 (b) **PROGRAMS UNDER TITLE VII.—**

3 (A) PREFERENCE IN MAKING AWARDS.—

7 “(c) PREFERENCE IN MAKING AWARDS.—In making
8 awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a), the
9 Secretary shall give preference to making awards to assist
10 entities in meeting the costs associated with expanding or
11 establishing programs that will increase the number of in-
12 dividuals trained as medical laboratory personnel.”.

13 (B) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIA-
14 TIONS.—Section 757 of the Public Health Serv-
15 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 294g(a)) is amended by add-
16 ing at the end the following subsection:

17 “(d) ALLIED HEALTH AND OTHER DISCIPLINES.—
18 For the purpose of carrying out section 755, there are au-
19 thorized to be appropriated \$100,000,000 for fiscal year
20 2002, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the
21 fiscal years 2003 through 2006. Such authorization is in
22 addition to the authorizations of appropriations under
23 subsection (a) that are available for such purpose.”.

4 (A) by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
5 section (e); and

6 (B) by inserting after subsection (c) the
7 following subsection:

8 "(d) MEDICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL.—For the
9 purpose of increasing the number of individuals trained
10 as medical laboratory personnel through making awards
11 of grants or contracts under sections 737 through 739 for
12 appropriate schools of allied health, there are authorized
13 to be appropriated, in addition to authorizations of appro-
14 priations under subsections (a) through (c) that are avail-
15 able for such purpose, the following:

16 “(1) For awards under section 737 to such
17 schools, \$11,193,000 for fiscal year 2002, and such
18 sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal
19 years 2003 through 2006.

20 “(2) For awards under section 738 to serve as
21 members of the faculty of such schools, \$332,500 for
22 fiscal year 2002, and such sums as may be nec-
23 essary for each of the fiscal years 2003 through
24 2006.

1 “(3) For awards under section 739 to such
2 schools, \$8,200,000 for fiscal year 2002, and such
3 sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal
4 years 2003 through 2006.”.

5 (3) DEFINITION OF MEDICAL LABORATORY
6 PERSONNEL.—Section 799B of the Public Health
7 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) is amended by adding
8 at the end the following:

9 “(12) The term ‘medical laboratory personnel’
10 means allied health professionals (as defined in
11 paragraph (5)) who are medical technologists,
12 cytotechnologists, histotechnologists, phlebotomists,
13 or medical laboratory technicians, or who are in
14 other fields that, within the meaning of section
15 353(a) (relating to the certification of clinical lab-
16 oratories), examine materials derived from the
17 human body for the purpose of providing informa-
18 tion for the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of
19 any disease or impairment of, or the assessment of
20 the health of, human beings.”.

21 **SEC. 3. RESPONSE TO SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL LABORA-**
22 **TORY PERSONNEL; PROGRAMS OF CENTERS**
23 **FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.**

24 (a) PREVENTIVE HEALTH MEASURES WITH RE-
25 SPECT TO BREAST AND CERVICAL CANCER.—Title XV of

1 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300k et seq.)
2 is amended by inserting after section 1509 the following
3 section:

4 **“SEC. 1509A. SHORTAGE OF TECHNOLOGISTS FOR LABORA-**
5 **TORY ANALYSIS REGARDING SCREENING FOR**
6 **CERVICAL CANCER.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
8 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services
9 Administration and in collaboration with the Director of
10 the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, shall
11 make grants to appropriate public and nonprofit private
12 entities to provide training to increase the number of
13 cytotechnologists who are available with respect to screen-
14 ing women for cervical cancer.

15 “(b) FUNDING.—

16 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
17 for the purpose of carrying out this section, there
18 are authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 for
19 fiscal year 2002, and such sums as may be nec-
20 essary for each of the fiscal years 2003 through
21 2006.

22 “(2) LIMITATION.—The authorization of appro-
23 priations established in paragraph (1) is not effec-
24 tive for a fiscal year unless the amount appropriated

1 under section 1510(a) for the fiscal year is equal to
2 or greater than \$173,928,000.”.

3 (b) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCIES.—

4 (1) COMBATING ANTIMICROBIAL RESISTANCE.—
5 Section 319E of the Public Health Service Act (42
6 U.S.C. 247d-5), as added by section 102 of Public
7 Law 106-505 (114 Stat. 2315), is amended—

8 (A) in subsection (c)(3), by inserting be-
9 fore the period the following: “, and support
10 programs that train medical laboratory per-
11 sonnel (as defined in section 799B) in dis-
12 ciplines that recognize or identify the resistance
13 of pathogens”; and

14 (B) in subsection (e)(2), by inserting after
15 “societies,” the following: “schools or programs
16 that train medical laboratory personnel (as de-
17 fined in section 799B),”.

18 (2) PUBLIC HEALTH COUNTERMEASURES TO
19 BIOTERRORIST ATTACK.—Section 319F of the Pub-
20 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d-6), as added
21 by section 102 of Public Law 106-505 (114 Stat.
22 2315), is amended—

23 (A) in subsection (c)(2)—

24 (i) by striking “or” after “clinic,”;
25 and

1 (ii) by inserting before the period the
2 following: “, or a school or program that
3 trains medical laboratory personnel (as de-
4 fined in section 799B)”;

5 (B) in subsection (e)(2), by inserting be-
6 fore the period the following: “, and support
7 programs that train medical laboratory per-
8 sonnel (as defined in section 799B) in dis-
9 ciplines that recognize or identify a potential bi-
10 ological agent”.

11 SEC. 4. RESPONSE TO SHORTAGE OF MEDICAL LABORA-
12 TORY PERSONNEL; PROGRAMS OF NATIONAL
13 HEART, LUNG, AND BLOOD INSTITUTE.

14 Section 422(c)(3)(C) of the Public Health Service Act
15 (42 U.S.C. 285b-4(c)(3)(C)) is amended by inserting
16 after “allied health professionals” the following: “, with
17 emphasis given in the training of such professionals to the
18 training of medical laboratory personnel (as defined in sec-
19 tion 799B) in medical laboratory disciplines with respect
20 to which there are needs for increased numbers of per-
21 sonnel”.

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