

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1232

To establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 28, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. PICKERING) introduced the following bill;
which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a competitive grant program to build capacity in veterinary medical education and expand the workforce of veterinarians engaged in public health practice and biomedical research.

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 “Veterinary Public
5 Health Workforce Expansion Act of 2007”.

6 **SEC. 2. COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
8 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-

1 retary'') shall award competitive grants to eligible entities
2 for the purpose of improving public health preparedness
3 through increasing the number of veterinarians in the
4 workforce.

5 (b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive a
6 grant under subsection (a), an entity shall—

7 (1) be—

8 (A) a public or other nonprofit school of
9 veterinary medicine accredited by a recognized
10 body or bodies approved for such purpose by
11 the Department of Education;

12 (B) a public or nonprofit, department of
13 comparative medicine, department of veterinary
14 science, school of public health, or school of
15 medicine that is accredited by a recognized
16 body or bodies approved for such purpose by
17 the Department of Education and that offers
18 graduate training for veterinarians in a public
19 health practice area as determined by the Sec-
20 retary; or

21 (C) a public or nonprofit entity that con-
22 ducts recognized residency training programs
23 for veterinarians that are approved by a veteri-
24 nary specialty organization that is recognized
25 by the American Veterinary Medical Association

1 and that offers postgraduate training for veteri-
2 narians in a public health practice area as de-
3 termined by the Secretary; and

4 (2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an ap-
5 plication, at such time, in such manner, and con-
6 taining such information as the Secretary may re-
7 quire.

8 (c) CONSIDERATION OF APPLICATIONS.—The Sec-
9 retary shall establish procedures to ensure that applica-
10 tions under subsection (b)(2) are rigorously reviewed and
11 that grants are competitively awarded based on—

12 (1) the ability of the applicant to increase the
13 number of veterinarians who are trained in specified
14 public health practice areas as determined by the
15 Secretary;

16 (2) the ability of the applicant to increase ca-
17 pacity in research on high priority disease agents; or

18 (3) any other consideration the Secretary deter-
19 mines necessary.

20 (d) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants under sub-
21 section (a)(1), the Secretary shall give preference to appli-
22 cants that demonstrate a comprehensive approach by in-
23 volving more than one school of veterinary medicine, de-
24 partment of comparative medicine, department of veteri-
25 nary science, school of public health, school of medicine,

1 or residency training program that offers postgraduate
2 training for veterinarians in a public health practice area
3 as determined by the Secretary.

4 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received under a
5 grant under this subsection shall be used by a grantee to
6 increase the number of veterinarians in the workforce
7 through—

8 (1) paying the costs associated with construc-
9 tion, the acquisition of equipment, and other capital
10 costs relating to the expansion of existing schools of
11 veterinary medicine, departments of comparative
12 medicine, departments of veterinary science, or enti-
13 ties offering residency training programs; or

14 (2) paying the capital costs associated with the
15 expansion of academic programs that offer post-
16 graduate training for veterinarians or concurrent
17 training for veterinary students in specific areas of
18 specialization.

19 (f) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “public
20 health practice” includes bioterrorism and emergency pre-
21 paredness, environmental health, food safety and food se-
22 curity, regulatory medicine, diagnostic laboratory medi-
23 cine, and biomedical research.

24 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,

1 \$300,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, and \$1,264,000,000
2 for the 9-fiscal year period beginning with fiscal year
3 2008. Amounts appropriated under this subsection shall
4 remain available until expended.

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