

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2332

To amend the Peace Corps Act and the National and Community Service Trust Act to increase the affordability of medical education.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 7, 2009

Mr. MCMAHON (for himself, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To amend the Peace Corps Act and the National and Community Service Trust Act to increase the affordability of medical education.

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 “Future Physicians  
5 Serving America Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) A predicted shortage of 124,000 physicians  
2       by 2025 will affect all medical specialties.

3           (2) An aging and growing population will in-  
4       crease demand on all health professionals.

5           (3) Median debt of \$155,000 for medical school  
6       graduates poses a significant hardship for new phy-  
7       sicians and places a strain on the health care sys-  
8       tem.

9           (4) Providing members of the Peace Corps and  
10      AmeriCorps with support for medical education is  
11      consistent with the values of these programs and the  
12      United States.

13          (5) Increasing medical school enrollment of  
14      members of the Peace Corps and AmeriCorps will  
15      improve the supply, distribution, diversity, and qual-  
16      ity of physicians in the health care workforce by—

17            (A) providing low-income individuals with  
18           the opportunity to attend medical school at a  
19           lower cost;

20            (B) lowering the overall cost of medical  
21           school and the debt burden of medical school  
22           graduates;

23            (C) increasing the cultural diversity of  
24           medical schools and the physician workforce;  
25           and

1 (D) increasing the number of physicians  
2 with a demonstrated interest in rural and inner  
3 city populations.

4 **SEC. 3. PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO PEACE**  
5 **CORPS VOLUNTEERS.**

6 (a) MEDICAL EDUCATION ASSISTANCE BENEFITS.—  
7 Section 5 of the Peace Corps Act (22 U.S.C. 2504) is  
8 amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
9 section:

10 “(o) For each year of service, as defined under sec-  
11 tion 26(e), a volunteer who is accepted for enrollment, or  
12 enrolled, in a course of study or program at any accredited  
13 public or nonprofit private hospital, school of medicine or  
14 osteopathic medicine within the United States for the pur-  
15 pose of undergraduate medical education shall be granted  
16 tuition assistance for a maximum of two years. The Presi-  
17 dent shall determine the amount of such assistance, to be  
18 not less than 50 percent but not more than 100 percent  
19 of the cost of such tuition incurred by such volunteer.”.

20 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Section 15 of the Peace Corps  
21 Act (22 U.S.C. 2514) is amended by adding at the end  
22 the following new subsection:

23 “(e) Funds made available for the purposes of this  
24 Act may be used for tuition assistance in accordance with  
25 subsection (o) of section 5, if the volunteer described in

1 such subsection is accepted for enrollment, or remains en-  
 2 rolled full-time in a course of study or program described  
 3 in such subsection within three years of the completion  
 4 of service by such volunteer.”.

5 **SEC. 4. PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO**  
 6 **AMERICORPS VOLUNTEERS.**

7 Section 147 of the National and Community Service  
 8 Trust Act (42 U.S.C. 12603), as amended by the Serve  
 9 America Act, is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
 10 lowing new paragraph:

11 “(f) AMOUNT FOR NATIONAL SERVICE FOR INDIVID-  
 12 UALS ENTERING THE STUDY OF MEDICINE.—

13 “(1) FULL-TIME VOLUNTEERS.—Except as pro-  
 14 vided in subsection (c), an individual described in  
 15 section 146(a) who successfully completes a required  
 16 term of full-time national service in an approved na-  
 17 tional service position and enters a course of study  
 18 or program at any accredited public or nonprofit pri-  
 19 vate hospital, school of medicine or osteopathic med-  
 20 icine within the United States for the purpose of un-  
 21 dergraduate medical education shall receive a na-  
 22 tional service educational award having a value, for  
 23 each of not more than 2 of such terms of service,  
 24 equal to no less than 50 percent, nor to exceed 100

1       percent of the cost of tuition incurred by such indi-  
2       vidual.

3               “(2) PART-TIME VOLUNTEERS.—Except as pro-  
4       vided in subsection (c), an individual described in  
5       section 146(a) who successfully completes a required  
6       term of part-time national service in an approved  
7       national service position and enters a course of  
8       study or program at any accredited public or non-  
9       profit private hospital, school of medicine or osteo-  
10      pathic medicine within the United States for the  
11      purpose of undergraduate medical education shall  
12      receive a national service educational award having  
13      a value, for each of not more than 2 of such terms  
14      of service, equal to 50 percent of value of the na-  
15      tional service educational award determined under  
16      paragraph (1).”.

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