

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2620

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish various programs for the recruitment and retention of public health workers and to eliminate critical public health workforce shortages in Federal, State, local, and tribal public health agencies and health centers.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 21, 2009

Ms. MATSUI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish various programs for the recruitment and retention of public health workers and to eliminate critical public health workforce shortages in Federal, State, local, and tribal public health agencies and health centers.

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 “Public Health Work-
5 force Development Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

1 (1) The ability of the public health system to
2 prevent, respond to, and recover from bioterrorism,
3 acute outbreaks of infectious diseases, or other
4 health threats and emergencies, and to prevent and
5 reduce chronic disease, depends upon the existence
6 of adequate numbers of well-trained public health
7 professionals in Federal, State, local, and tribal pub-
8 lic health departments and health centers.

9 (2) The public health system has an aging staff
10 nearing retirement with no clear pipeline of highly
11 skilled and capable employees to fill the void, with
12 the average age of the State public health workforce
13 at 47 years.

14 (3) Retirement rates in some State public
15 health agencies were as high as 20 percent as of
16 June 2007, and projected to be as high as 45 per-
17 cent in 2009.

18 (4) The ratio of public health workers to the
19 population has dropped from 219 per 100,000 in
20 1980 to 158 per 100,000 in 2000, while responsibil-
21 ities of such workers have continued to expand.

22 (5) Public health nurses comprise the largest
23 segment of the public health workforce. A study by
24 the Institute of Medicine in 2003 identified nursing
25 as facing one of the most severe shortages of public

1 health workers. The average age of public health
2 nurses is nearly 50 years, with the leaders of State
3 public health nursing averaging more than 30 years
4 of service. In one State nearly 40 percent of the
5 public health nursing workforce was eligible for re-
6 tirement as of June 2007.

7 (6) According to the Association of State and
8 Territorial Health Officials, most of the approxi-
9 mately 6,400 graduates from accredited schools of
10 public health took jobs in the private sector in 2004.
11 The Bureau of Labor Statistics projects that there
12 will be an increase in private sector demand for
13 highly educated graduates in scientific fields during
14 the 10-year period ending in 2017. Public health
15 agencies will have difficulty competing for those
16 highly skilled scientists.

17 (7) As of June 2007, approximately 42 percent
18 of the epidemiology workforce in State and terri-
19 torial health departments lacked formal academic
20 training in epidemiology. States have reported that
21 approximately 47 percent more epidemiologists are
22 needed to adequately prevent and control avian in-
23 fluenza and other emerging diseases.

24 (8) The Partnership for Public Service reports
25 that in the field of microbiology, there are more than

1 4 times as many full-time permanent employees over
2 age 40 as under age 40 at the Centers for Disease
3 Control and Prevention. Among full-time permanent
4 employees with medical backgrounds at the Centers
5 for Disease Control and Prevention and the Food
6 and Drug Administration, there are 3 times as many
7 employees over 40 years of age as under 40.

8 (9) More than 50 percent of States cite the lack
9 of qualified individuals or individuals willing to relo-
10 cate as being a major barrier to preparedness. A
11 study conducted by the Health Resources and Serv-
12 ices Association reported difficulty with recruiting
13 more educated, skilled public health providers to
14 work in traditionally medically underserved areas,
15 such as rural populations. Public health agencies
16 continue to face an unmet need for public health
17 workers who are bilingual and culturally competent.

18 (10) Lack of access to advanced education, in-
19 cluding baccalaureate nursing and graduate studies,
20 is a significant barrier to upgrading the existing
21 public health workforce, particularly in rural areas.

1 **SEC. 3. PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE RECRUITMENT AND**
2 **RETENTION PROGRAMS.**

3 Part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following:

6 **“Subpart 3—Public Health Workforce Recruitment**
7 **and Retention Programs**

8 **“SEC. 780. PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP**
9 **PROGRAM.**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
11 lish the Public Health Workforce Scholarship Program
12 (referred to in this section as the ‘Program’) to assure
13 an adequate supply of public health professionals to elimi-
14 nate critical public health workforce shortages in Federal,
15 State, local, and tribal public health agencies and health
16 centers.

17 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in
18 the Program, an individual shall—

19 “(1) be accepted for enrollment, or be enrolled,
20 as a full-time student—

21 “(A) in an accredited (as determined by
22 the Secretary) educational institution in a State
23 or territory; and

24 “(B) in a course of study or program, of-
25 fered by such institution and approved by the
26 Secretary, leading to a health professions de-

1 gree (graduate, undergraduate, or associate) or
2 certificate, which may include public health,
3 laboratory sciences, epidemiology, environ-
4 mental health, health communications, health
5 education and behavioral sciences, information
6 sciences, or public administration;

7 “(2) be a United States citizen;

8 “(3) submit an application to the Secretary to
9 participate in the Program; and

10 “(4) sign and submit to the Secretary, at the
11 time of the submission of such application, a written
12 contract (described in subsection (d)) to serve, upon
13 the completion of the course of study or program in-
14 volved, for the applicable period of obligated service
15 in the full-time employment of a Federal, State,
16 local, or tribal public health agency or a health cen-
17 ter.

18 “(c) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—

19 “(1) APPLICATION AND CONTRACT FORMS.—
20 The Secretary shall disseminate application forms
21 and contract forms to individuals desiring to partici-
22 pate in the Program. The Secretary shall include
23 with such forms—

24 “(A) a fair summary of the rights and li-
25 abilities of an individual whose application is

1 approved (and whose contract is accepted) by
2 the Secretary, including in the summary a clear
3 explanation of the damages to which the United
4 States is entitled in the case of the individual's
5 breach of the contract; and

6 “(B) information relating to the service ob-
7 ligation and such other information as may be
8 necessary for the individual to understand the
9 individual's prospective participation in the Pro-
10 gram.

11 “(2) INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS.—The Sec-
12 retary shall distribute to health professions schools
13 and other appropriate accredited academic institu-
14 tions and relevant Federal, State, local, and tribal
15 public health agencies, materials providing informa-
16 tion on the Program and shall encourage such
17 schools, institutions, and agencies to disseminate
18 such materials to potentially eligible students.

19 “(3) UNDERSTANDABILITY AND TIMING.—The
20 application form, contract form, and all other infor-
21 mation furnished by the Secretary under this section
22 shall—

23 “(A) be written in a manner calculated to
24 be understood by the average individual apply-
25 ing to participate in the Program; and

1 “(B) be made available by the Secretary on
2 a date sufficiently early to ensure that such in-
3 dividuals have adequate time to carefully review
4 and evaluate such forms and information.

5 “(d) CONTRACT.—The written contract between the
6 Secretary and an individual shall contain—

7 “(1) an agreement on the part of the Secretary
8 that the Secretary will provide the individual with a
9 scholarship for a period of years (not to exceed 4
10 academic years) during which the individual shall
11 pursue an approved course of study or program to
12 prepare the individual to serve in the public health
13 workforce;

14 “(2) an agreement on the part of the individual
15 that the individual will—

16 “(A) maintain full-time enrollment in the
17 approved course of study or program described
18 in subsection (b)(1) until the individual com-
19 pletes that course of study or program;

20 “(B) while enrolled in the course of study
21 or program, maintain an acceptable level of aca-
22 demic standing (as determined under regula-
23 tions of the Secretary by the educational insti-
24 tution offering such course of study or pro-
25 gram); and

1 “(C) immediately upon graduation, serve
2 in the full-time employment of a Federal, State,
3 local, or tribal public health agency or a health
4 center in a position related to the course of
5 study or program for which the contract was
6 awarded for a period of time (referred to in this
7 section as the ‘period of obligated service’)
8 equal to the greater of—

9 “(i) 1 year for each academic year for
10 which the individual was provided a schol-
11 arship under the Program; or

12 “(ii) 2 years;

13 “(3) an agreement by both parties as to the na-
14 ture and extent of the scholarship assistance, which
15 may include—

16 “(A) payment of the tuition expenses of
17 the individual;

18 “(B) payment of all other reasonable edu-
19 cational expenses of the individual including
20 fees, books, equipment, and laboratory ex-
21 penses; and

22 “(C) payment of a stipend of not more
23 than \$1,200 per month for each month of the
24 academic year involved (indexed to account for
25 increases in the Consumer Price Index);

1 “(4) a provision that any financial obligation of
2 the United States arising out of a contract entered
3 into under this subsection and any obligation of the
4 individual which is conditioned thereon, is contingent
5 upon funds being appropriated for scholarships
6 under this section;

7 “(5) a statement of the damages to which the
8 United States is entitled for the individual’s breach
9 of the contract; and

10 “(6) such other statements of the rights and li-
11 abilities of the Secretary and of the individual, not
12 inconsistent with the provisions of this section.

13 “(e) POSTPONING OBLIGATED SERVICE.—With re-
14 spect to an individual receiving a degree or certificate from
15 a school of medicine, public health, nursing, osteopathic
16 medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, po-
17 diatry, pharmacy, psychology, or social work under a
18 scholarship under the Program, the date of the initiation
19 of the period of obligated service may be postponed, upon
20 the submission by the individual of a petition for such
21 postponement and approval by the Secretary, to the date
22 on which the individual completes an approved internship,
23 residency, or other relevant public health advanced train-
24 ing program.

25 “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

1 “(1) CONTRACTS WITH INSTITUTIONS.—The
2 Secretary may contract with an educational institu-
3 tion in which a participant in the Program is en-
4 rolled, for the payment to the educational institution
5 of the amounts of tuition and other reasonable edu-
6 cational expenses described in subsection (d)(3).

7 “(2) EMPLOYMENT CEILINGS.—Notwith-
8 standing any other provision of law, individuals who
9 have entered into written contracts with the Sec-
10 retary under this section, while undergoing academic
11 training, shall not be counted against any employ-
12 ment ceiling affecting the Department or any other
13 Federal agency.

14 “(g) BREACH OF CONTRACT.—An individual who
15 fails to comply with the contract entered into under sub-
16 section (d) shall be subject to the same financial penalties
17 as provided for under section 338E for breaches of schol-
18 arship contracts under sections 338A.

19 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
20 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
21 \$35,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 through
22 2015.

23 “(i) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subpart, the
24 term ‘health center’ has the meaning given such term in
25 section 330(a).

1 **“SEC. 781. PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE LOAN REPAYMENT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-
4 lish the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Pro-
5 gram (referred to in this section as the ‘Program’) to as-
6 sure an adequate supply of public health professionals to
7 eliminate critical public health workforce shortages in
8 Federal, State, local, and tribal public health agencies and
9 in health centers.

10 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in
11 the Program, an individual shall—

12 “(1)(A) be accepted for enrollment, or be en-
13 rolled, as a full-time or part-time student in an ac-
14 credited academic educational institution in a State
15 or territory in the final year of a course of study or
16 program offered by that institution leading to a
17 health professions degree or certificate, which may
18 include a degree (graduate, undergraduate, or asso-
19 ciate) or certificate relating to public health, labora-
20 tory sciences, epidemiology, environmental health,
21 health communications, health education and behav-
22 ioral sciences, information sciences, or public admin-
23 istration; or

24 “(B) have graduated, within 10 years, from an
25 accredited educational institution in a State or terri-
26 tory and received a health professions degree (grad-

1 uate, undergraduate, or associate) or certificate,
2 which may include a degree (graduate, under-
3 graduate, or associate) or certificate relating to pub-
4 lic health, laboratory sciences, epidemiology, environ-
5 mental health, health communications, health edu-
6 cation and behavioral sciences, information sciences,
7 or public administration;

8 “(2)(A) in the case of an individual described in
9 paragraph (1)(A), have accepted employment with a
10 Federal, State, local, or tribal public health agency
11 or a health center, as recognized by the Secretary,
12 to commence upon graduation; or

13 “(B) in the case of an individual described in
14 paragraph (1)(B), be employed by, or have accepted
15 employment with, a Federal, State, local, or tribal
16 public health agency or a health center, as recog-
17 nized by the Secretary;

18 “(3) be a United States citizen;

19 “(4) submit an application to the Secretary to
20 participate in the Program; and

21 “(5) sign and submit to the Secretary, at the
22 time of the submission of such application, a written
23 contract (described in subsection (d)) to serve for
24 the applicable period of obligated service in the full-

1 time employment of a Federal, State, local, or tribal
2 public health agency or a health center.

3 “(c) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—

4 “(1) APPLICATION AND CONTRACT FORMS.—

5 The Secretary shall disseminate application forms
6 and contract forms to individuals desiring to partici-
7 pate in the Program. The Secretary shall include
8 with such forms—

9 “(A) a fair summary of the rights and li-
10 abilities of an individual whose application is
11 approved (and whose contract is accepted) by
12 the Secretary, including in the summary a clear
13 explanation of the damages to which the United
14 States is entitled to recover in the case of the
15 individual’s breach of the contract; and

16 “(B) information relating to the service ob-
17 ligation and such other information as may be
18 necessary for the individual to understand the
19 individual’s prospective participation in the Pro-
20 gram.

21 “(2) INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS.—The Sec-
22 retary shall distribute to health professions schools
23 and other appropriate accredited academic institu-
24 tions and relevant Federal, State, local, and tribal
25 public health agencies and health centers, materials

1 providing information on the Program and shall en-
2 courage such schools, institutions, and agencies to
3 disseminate such materials to potentially eligible stu-
4 dents.

5 “(3) UNDERSTANDABILITY AND TIMING.—The
6 application form, contract form, and all other infor-
7 mation furnished by the Secretary under this section
8 shall—

9 “(A) be written in a manner calculated to
10 be understood by the average individual apply-
11 ing to participate in the Program; and

12 “(B) be made available by the Secretary on
13 a date sufficiently early to ensure that such in-
14 dividuals have adequate time to carefully review
15 and evaluate such forms and information.

16 “(d) CONTRACT.—The written contract (referred to
17 in this section) between the Secretary and an individual
18 shall contain—

19 “(1) an agreement on the part of the Secretary
20 that the Secretary will repay on behalf of the indi-
21 vidual loans incurred by the individual in the pursuit
22 of the relevant public health workforce educational
23 degree or certificate in accordance with the terms of
24 the contract;

1 “(2) an agreement on the part of the individual
2 that the individual will serve, immediately upon
3 graduation in the case of an individual described in
4 subsection (b)(1)(A) service, or in the case of an in-
5 dividual described in subsection (b)(1)(B) continue
6 to serve, in the full-time employment of a Federal,
7 State, local, or tribal public health agency or health
8 center in a position related to the course of study or
9 program for which the contract was awarded for a
10 period of time (referred to in this section as the ‘pe-
11 riod of obligated service’) equal to the greater of—

12 “(A) 3 years; or

13 “(B) such longer period of time as deter-
14 mined appropriate by the Secretary and the in-
15 dividual;

16 “(3) an agreement, as appropriate, on the part
17 of the individual to relocate for the entire period of
18 obligated service to a political jurisdiction designated
19 by the Secretary to be a priority service area in ex-
20 change for an additional loan repayment incentive
21 amount that does not exceed 20 percent of the indi-
22 vidual’s eligible loan repayment award per academic
23 year such that the total of the loan repayment and
24 the incentive amount shall not exceed $\frac{1}{3}$ of the eligi-
25 ble loan balance per year;

1 “(4) in the case of an individual described in
2 subsection (b)(1)(A) who is in the final year of study
3 and who has accepted employment with a Federal,
4 State, local, or tribal public health agency or a
5 health center upon graduation, an agreement on the
6 part of the individual to complete the education or
7 training, maintain an acceptable level of academic
8 standing (as determined by the education institution
9 offering the course of study or training), and agree
10 to the period of obligated service;

11 “(5) a provision that any financial obligation of
12 the United States arising out of a contract entered
13 into under this section and any obligation of the in-
14 dividual that is conditioned thereon, is contingent on
15 funds being appropriated for loan repayments under
16 this section;

17 “(6) a statement of the damages to which the
18 United States is entitled, under this section for the
19 individual’s breach of the contract; and

20 “(7) such other statements of the rights and li-
21 abilities of the Secretary and of the individual, not
22 inconsistent with this section.

23 “(e) PAYMENTS.—

24 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A loan repayment provided
25 for an individual under a written contract under the

1 Program shall consist of payment, in accordance
2 with paragraph (2), on behalf of the individual of
3 the principal, interest, and related expenses on gov-
4 ernment and commercial loans received by the indi-
5 vidual regarding the undergraduate or graduate edu-
6 cation of the individual (or both), which loans were
7 made for—

8 “(A) tuition expenses; or

9 “(B) all other reasonable educational ex-
10 penses, including fees, books, and laboratory ex-
11 penses, incurred by the individual.

12 “(2) PAYMENTS FOR YEARS SERVED.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each year of obli-
14 gated service that an individual contracts to
15 serve under subsection (d) the Secretary may
16 pay up to \$35,000 on behalf of the individual
17 for loans described in paragraph (1). With re-
18 spect to participants under the Program whose
19 total eligible loans are less than \$105,000, the
20 Secretary shall pay an amount that does not ex-
21 ceed $\frac{1}{3}$ of the eligible loan balance for each
22 year of obligated service of the individual.

23 “(B) REPAYMENT SCHEDULE.—Any ar-
24 rangement made by the Secretary for the mak-
25 ing of loan repayments in accordance with this

1 subsection shall provide that any repayments
2 for a year of obligated service shall be made no
3 later than the end of the fiscal year in which
4 the individual completes such year of service.

5 “(3) TAX LIABILITY.—For the purpose of pro-
6 viding reimbursements for tax liability resulting
7 from payments under paragraph (2) on behalf of an
8 individual—

9 “(A) the Secretary shall, in addition to
10 such payments, make payments to the indi-
11 vidual in an amount not to exceed 39 percent
12 of the total amount of loan repayments made
13 for the taxable year involved; and

14 “(B) may make such additional payments
15 as the Secretary determines to be appropriate
16 with respect to such purpose.

17 “(4) PAYMENT SCHEDULE.—The Secretary
18 may enter into an agreement with the holder of any
19 loan for which payments are made under the Pro-
20 gram to establish a schedule for the making of such
21 payments.

22 “(f) POSTPONING OBLIGATED SERVICE.—With re-
23 spect to an individual receiving a degree or certificate from
24 a school of medicine, public health, nursing, osteopathic
25 medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, po-

1 diatry, pharmacy, psychology, or social work, the date of
2 the initiation of the period of obligated service may be
3 postponed, upon the submission by the individual of a peti-
4 tion for such postponement and approval by the Secretary,
5 to the date on which the individual completes an approved
6 internship, residency, or other relevant public health ad-
7 vanced training program.

8 “(g) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

9 “(1) HIRING PRIORITY.—Notwithstanding any
10 other provision of law, Federal, State, local, and
11 tribal public health agencies and health centers may
12 give hiring priority to any individual who has quali-
13 fied for and is willing to execute a contract to par-
14 ticipate in the Program.

15 “(2) EMPLOYMENT CEILINGS.—Notwith-
16 standing any other provision of law, individuals who
17 have entered into written contracts with the Sec-
18 retary under this section, who are serving as full-
19 time employees of a State, local, or tribal public
20 health agency or a health center, or who are in the
21 last year of public health workforce academic prepa-
22 ration, shall not be counted against any employment
23 ceiling affecting the Department or any other Fed-
24 eral agency.

1 “(h) BREACH OF CONTRACT.—An individual who
2 fails to comply with the contract entered into under sub-
3 section (d) shall be subject to the same financial penalties
4 as provided for under section 338E for breaches of loan
5 repayment contracts under section 338B.

6 “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
8 \$195,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 through
9 2015.

10 **“SEC. 782. GRANTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS.**

11 “(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of operating
12 State, local, tribal, and health center public health work-
13 force loan repayment programs under this subpart, the
14 Secretary shall award a grant to any public health agency
15 that receives public health preparedness cooperative agree-
16 ments, or other successor cooperative agreements, from
17 the Department of Health and Human Services.

18 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A State or local loan repay-
19 ment program operated with a grant under subsection (a)
20 shall incorporate all provisions of the Public Health Work-
21 force Loan Repayment Program under section 781, in-
22 cluding the ability to designate priority service areas with-
23 in the relevant political jurisdiction.

24 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The head of the State or
25 local office that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall

1 be responsible for contracting and operating the loan re-
 2 payment program under the grant.

3 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-
 4 tion shall be construed to obligate or limit any State, local,
 5 or tribal government entity from implementing inde-
 6 pendent or supplemental public health workforce develop-
 7 ment programs within their borders.

8 **“SEC. 783. TRAINING FOR MID-CAREER PUBLIC HEALTH**
 9 **PROFESSIONALS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants
 11 to, or enter into contracts with, any eligible entity to
 12 award scholarships to eligible individuals to enroll in de-
 13 gree or professional training programs for the purpose of
 14 enabling mid-career professionals in the public health
 15 workforce to receive additional training in the field of pub-
 16 lic health.

17 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—

18 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
 19 tity’ indicates an accredited educational institution
 20 that offers a course of study, certificate program, or
 21 professional training program in infectious disease
 22 science, medicine, public health, veterinary medicine,
 23 or other discipline impacting or influenced by bioter-
 24 rorism or emerging infectious diseases.

1 “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The term ‘eligi-
2 ble individuals’ includes those individuals employed
3 in public health positions at the Federal, State, trib-
4 al, or local level or a health center who are inter-
5 ested in retaining or upgrading their education.

6 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
7 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
8 \$30,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2010 through
9 2015.

10 **“SEC. 784. CATALOGUE OF FEDERAL PUBLIC HEALTH**
11 **WORKFORCE EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES.**

12 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of
13 Personnel Management, in cooperation with the Secretary,
14 shall ensure that, included in the Internet website of the
15 Office of Personnel Management, there is an online cata-
16 logue, or link to an online catalogue, of public health work-
17 force employment opportunities in the Federal Govern-
18 ment.

19 “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—To the extent practicable, the
20 catalogue described in subsection (a) shall include—

21 “(1) existing and projected job openings in the
22 Federal public health workforce; and

23 “(2) a general discussion of the occupations
24 that comprise the Federal public health workforce.

1 “(c) INFORMATION.—The Secretary shall include a
2 copy of the catalogue described in subsection (a), or a
3 prominent reference to the catalogue, in—

4 “(1) the application forms provided under sec-
5 tion 780(c)(1); and

6 “(2) the information for schools provided under
7 section 780(c)(2).

8 **“SEC. 785. ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENTS GRANT PRO-**
9 **GRAM.**

10 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

11 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In order to improve the
12 training of public health students, the Secretary,
13 acting through the Director of the Centers for Dis-
14 ease Control and Prevention and in consultation
15 with the Association of Schools of Public Health,
16 shall carry out the Academic Health Departments
17 grant program (referred to in this section as the
18 ‘Program’) under which the Secretary shall award
19 competitive grants, of not more than \$250,000 each,
20 to eligible partnerships to establish Academic Health
21 Departments.

22 “(2) ACADEMIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT DE-
23 FINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘Aca-
24 demic Health Department’ means a program admin-
25 istered by an eligible partnership that provides for

1 collaboration between the academic and practice as-
2 pects of public health. The purpose of such a depart-
3 ment is to increase the number of graduates in pub-
4 lic health who work in State and local health depart-
5 ments, increase the relevance of the curriculum in
6 schools and programs of public health to health de-
7 partment practice, and to increase the use of aca-
8 demic theories, knowledge, and methodologies in the
9 work of health departments.

10 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—For purposes of this section, an
11 eligible partnership is a partnership, with respect to estab-
12 lishing an Academic Health Department, consisting of—

13 “(1) a State or local public health department;
14 and

15 “(2) an accredited school of public health or an
16 accredited public health degree program.

17 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership (as de-
18 scribed in subsection (b)) may use funds provided under
19 a grant made under subsection (a) for the following pur-
20 poses, with respect to an Academic Health Department:

21 “(1) To provide for curriculum development.

22 “(2) To provide for training and academic in-
23 struction.

24 “(3) To conduct leadership seminars.

1 “(4) To conduct training needs assessment sur-
2 veys.

3 “(5) To facilitate appropriate staff of the State
4 or local health department participating in the eligi-
5 ble partnership to teach with the school of public
6 health or public health degree program participating
7 in such partnership.

8 “(6) To facilitate faculty and students of the
9 school of public health or public health degree pro-
10 gram participating in the eligible partnership to
11 work in the health department participating in such
12 partnership.

13 “(7) To provide for a project coordinator.

14 “(8) To provide for subgrants to organizations
15 to conduct activities consistent with the goals of the
16 Program.

17 “(9) Other appropriate activities specified by
18 the Secretary to recruit public health students to full
19 time employment in a health department after grad-
20 uation.

21 “(d) REPORTS.—

22 “(1) GRANT RECIPIENT REPORTS TO THE SEC-
23 RETARY.—Each recipient of a grant awarded under
24 subsection (a) shall submit to the Secretary a report
25 for each year for which the recipient received such

1 a grant on the results and outcomes of the activities
2 funded by such grant during such year.

3 “(2) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—For the 3-year
4 period beginning on the date of the establishment of
5 the Program, and for each subsequent 3-year period
6 in which the Program is in existence, the Secretary
7 shall submit to Congress a report, on the results and
8 outcomes of the Program during such 3-year period,
9 including the number of Academic Health Depart-
10 ments funded by grants under the Program, the
11 number of students trained through grants under
12 the Program, and the number of trainees partici-
13 pating in such Academic Health Departments who
14 remain in public health professions.

15 “(3) EVALUATION OF PROGRAM.—Not later
16 than the date that is 5 years after the date of the
17 establishment of the Program, the Secretary shall
18 submit to Congress a report that examines the re-
19 sults and outcomes of the Program and recommends
20 the extent to which the Program should be contin-
21 ued.

22 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
23 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,

1 \$4,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2009 through
2 2014.”.

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