

111TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2784

To establish a loan repayment program for qualifying physicians and nurse practitioners participating in the Medicare Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 10, 2009

Mr. THORNBERRY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To establish a loan repayment program for qualifying physicians and nurse practitioners participating in the Medicare Program.

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 “Partnership to Improve
5 Seniors Access to Medicare Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR QUALIFYING**
7 **PHYSICIANS AND NURSE PRACTITIONERS**
8 **PARTICIPATING IN MEDICARE.**

9 (a) LOANS.—The Secretary of Health and Human
10 Services (in this section referred to as the “Secretary”)

1 shall establish a program of entering into contracts with
2 eligible individuals under which—

3 (1) the eligible individual agrees—

4 (A) to serve as a physician or nurse practi-
5 tioner who is a participating physician or sup-
6 plier (as defined in section 1842(h)(1) of the
7 Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395u(h)(1)));
8 and

9 (B) subject to subsection (b), to accept, to
10 the greatest extent possible, Medicare individ-
11 uals who seek the services of such eligible indi-
12 vidual; and

13 (2) the Secretary agrees to pay on behalf of the
14 eligible individual, for each year the eligible indi-
15 vidual is in compliance with subparagraphs (A) and
16 (B) of paragraph (1), not more than \$20,000 of the
17 principal and interest on government and commer-
18 cial loans received by the eligible individual regard-
19 ing the undergraduate or graduate education (or
20 both) of the eligible individual.

21 (b) REQUIREMENT.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2),
23 for an eligible individual to be in compliance with
24 subsection (a)(1)(B) with respect to a year, at least
25 30 percent of the number of individuals to whom the

1 eligible individual furnishes services during such
2 year must be Medicare individuals.

3 (2) APPLICATION TO GROUP PRACTICES.—In
4 the case of an eligible individual in a medical group
5 practice, for such individual to be in compliance with
6 subsection (a)(1)(B) with respect to a year, at least
7 30 percent of the number of individuals to whom
8 such group practice furnishes services during such
9 year must be Medicare individuals.

10 (c) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—In this section, the
11 term “eligible individual” means an individual who—

12 (1) has a degree in medicine or osteopathic
13 medicine or who is certified as a nurse practitioner;
14 and

15 (2) submits to the Secretary an application for
16 a contract described in subsection (a), in a manner
17 and time, and containing such information, as speci-
18 fied by the Secretary.

19 (d) MEDICARE INDIVIDUAL DEFINED.—In this sec-
20 tion, the term “Medicare individual” means an individual
21 who is entitled to benefits under part A of title XVIII of
22 the Social Security Act and enrolled under part B of such
23 title.

24 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
25 out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated

- 1 such sums as are necessary for each of the fiscal years
- 2 2009 through 2014.

