

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1206

To establish and carry out a pediatric specialty loan repayment program.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 8, 2009

Mr. BROWN (for himself, Mr. DODD, and Mr. CASEY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish and carry out a pediatric specialty loan  
repayment 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 “Pediatric Workforce  
5       Investment Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW’S PEDIATRIC SPE-**  
7       **cialty Workforce.**

8       (a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health and  
9       Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-  
10      retary”), acting through the Administrator of the Health

1 Resources and Services Administration, shall establish and  
2 carry out a pediatric specialty loan repayment program  
3 under which the eligible individual agrees to be employed  
4 full-time for a specified period (which shall not be less  
5 than 2 years) in providing pediatric medical subspecialty,  
6 surgical specialty, or psychiatric subspecialty care.

7 (b) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—Through the pro-  
8 gram established under this section, the Secretary shall  
9 enter into contracts with qualified health professionals  
10 under which—

11 (1) such qualified health professionals will agree  
12 to provide pediatric medical subspecialty, surgical  
13 specialty, or psychiatric subspecialty care in an area  
14 with a shortage of the specified pediatric sub-  
15 specialty that has a sufficient pediatric population to  
16 support such pediatric subspecialty, as determined  
17 by the Secretary, and

18 (2) the Secretary agrees to make payments on  
19 the principal and interest of undergraduate or grad-  
20 uate medical education loans of professionals de-  
21 scribed in paragraph (1) of not more than \$35,000  
22 a year for each year of agreed upon service under  
23 such paragraph for a period of not more than 3  
24 years during the qualified health professional's—

1 (A) participation in an accredited pediatric  
2 medical subspecialty, surgical specialty, or psy-  
3 chiatry subspecialty residency or fellowship; or

4 (B) employment as a pediatric medical  
5 subspecialist, surgical specialist, or psychiatric  
6 subspecialist serving an area or population de-  
7 scribed in such paragraph.

8 (c) QUALIFIED HEALTH PROFESSIONAL.—For pur-  
9 poses of this section, the term “qualified health profes-  
10 sional” means a licensed physician who—

11 (1) is entering or receiving training in an ac-  
12 credited pediatric medical subspecialty or pediatric  
13 surgical specialty residency or fellowship, or

14 (2) has completed (but not prior to the end of  
15 the calendar year in which this Act is enacted) the  
16 training described in paragraph (1).

17 (d) ADDITIONAL ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENT.—The  
18 Secretary may not enter into a contract under this section  
19 with a qualified health professional unless the individual  
20 is a United States citizen or a permanent legal United  
21 States resident.

22 (e) DETERMINATION OF SHORTAGE AREAS.—For  
23 purposes of this section, an area shall be determined to  
24 be an area with a shortage of a specified pediatric sub-  
25 specialty based on—

- 1           (1) waiting times for patient care;
- 2           (2) recruitment for unfilled positions; or
- 3           (3) the ratio of the number of children who re-
- 4       side in the area who are in need of such pediatric
- 5       subspecialty care to the number of pediatric sub-
- 6       specialists furnishing such services within 100 miles
- 7       of the area.

8       (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
9       authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
10      \$20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2010 through 2014.

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