

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 304

To reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JANUARY 31, 2019

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. TESTER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. JONES, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. MANCHIN, and Ms. HARRIS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

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 “Training the Next
5 Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) The program of payments to teaching
4 health centers for graduate medical education under
5 section 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42
6 U.S.C. 256h) was enacted in 2010 and reauthorized
7 in 2015 and 2018 to address the crisis-level shortage
8 of primary care physicians, especially in rural and
9 medically underserved communities.

10 (2) Teaching health center residents and faculty
11 will provide more than 1,000,000 primary care med-
12 ical visits in 2019 to underserved communities.

13 (3) When compared with traditional Medicare
14 GME residents, residents who train at teaching
15 health centers are more likely to practice primary
16 care and remain in underserved or rural commu-
17 nities.

18 (4) The teaching health center program not
19 only plays a vital role in training the Nation's next
20 generation of primary care physicians (including
21 dentists), but helps bridge the Nation's physician
22 shortfall and address the maldistribution of physi-
23 cians across the United States.

24 (5) For these reasons, it is of vital importance
25 to continue the program under section 340H of the
26 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h) at a

1 sustainable level of funding per full-time equivalent
 2 resident, as recommended in the fact sheet of the
 3 Health Resources and Services Administration enti-
 4 tled “Cost Estimates for Training Residents in a
 5 Teaching Health Center”.

6 **SEC. 3. PAYMENTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 340H of
 8 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)) is
 9 amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
 11 graph (4); and

12 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
 13 lowing:

14 “(2) PAYMENTS TO APPROVED GRADUATE MED-
 15 ICAL RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS.—To carry
 16 out this section, for payments to approved graduate
 17 medical residency programs (as defined in paragraph
 18 (j)(1) of this section), there are authorized to be ap-
 19 propriated \$126,500,000 for fiscal year 2020,
 20 \$128,000,000 for fiscal year 2021, \$129,500,000 for
 21 fiscal year 2022, \$131,000,000 for fiscal year 2023,
 22 and \$132,500,000 for fiscal year 2024, to remain
 23 available until expended.

24 “(3) PAYMENTS TO NEW APPROVED GRADUATE
 25 MEDICAL RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS.—To

1 carry out this section, for payments to new approved
 2 graduate medical residency training programs (as
 3 defined in paragraph (j)(2) of this section), there are
 4 authorized to be appropriated \$6,000,000 for fiscal
 5 year 2021, \$12,000,000 for fiscal year 2022,
 6 \$17,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, and \$25,000,000
 7 for fiscal year 2024, to remain available until ex-
 8 pended.”.

9 (b) NUMBER OF RESIDENTS.—In calculating the
 10 level of payments to each approved graduate medical resi-
 11 dency training program pursuant to paragraph (g)(2) of
 12 section 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 13 256h), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
 14 pay for the number of residents at a program at a number
 15 that is no lower than the highest number of residents in
 16 their programs for the period of fiscal years 2016 through
 17 2018.

18 (c) LIMITATIONS.—The number of full-time equiva-
 19 lent residents for which a qualified teaching health center
 20 receives payments pursuant to subparagraph (a)(1)(C) of
 21 section 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
 22 256h) for a fiscal year shall not exceed by more than 6
 23 the number of full-time equivalent residents for which the
 24 center received such payments for the preceding fiscal
 25 year.

1 (d) REPORT ON EXPANSION.—Not later than Sep-
2 tember 30, 2021, the Secretary of Health and Human
3 Services shall submit to the Congress a report on the es-
4 tablishment of new approved graduate medical residency
5 programs and expansion of existing approved graduate
6 medical residency programs. The report shall include the
7 locations of such programs, the number of residents, and
8 statistics regarding the number of programs receiving pri-
9 ority under paragraph (a)(3) of section 340H of the Pub-
10 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h).

11 (e) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—The Secretary
12 of Health and Human Services shall make available to the
13 public the data reported by qualified teaching health cen-
14 ters pursuant to subsection (d) of this section and para-
15 graph (h)(1) of section 340H of the Public Health Service
16 Act (42 U.S.C. 256(h)).

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