

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 3438

To reauthorize the telehealth network and telehealth resource centers grant programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 11, 2020

Mrs. LOEFFLER (for herself and Ms. SMITH) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To reauthorize the telehealth network and telehealth resource centers grant programs.

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 “Rural Delivery of On-
5 line Care Services Reauthorization Act of 2020” or the
6 “R-DOCS Reauthorization Act of 2020”.

7 **SEC. 2. TELEHEALTH NETWORK AND TELEHEALTH RE-**
8 **SOURCE CENTERS GRANT PROGRAMS.**

9 Section 330I of the Public Health Service Act (42
10 U.S.C. 254c-14) is amended—

1 (1) in subsection (d)—

2 (A) in paragraph (1)—

3 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
4 graph (A), by striking “projects to dem-
5 onstrate how telehealth technologies can be
6 used through telehealth networks” and in-
7 serting “evidence-based projects that uti-
8 lize telehealth technologies through tele-
9 health networks”;

10 (ii) in subparagraph (A)—

11 (I) by striking “the quality of”
12 and inserting “access to, and the
13 quality of,”; and

14 (II) by inserting “and” after the
15 semicolon;

16 (iii) by striking subparagraph (B);

17 (iv) by redesignating subparagraph
18 (C) as subparagraph (B); and

19 (v) in subparagraph (B), as so redesi-
20 gnated, by striking “and patients and
21 their families, for decisionmaking” and in-
22 serting “, patients, and their families”;
23 and

24 (B) in paragraph (2)—

1 (i) by striking “demonstrate how tele-
2 health technologies can be used” and in-
3 sserting “support initiatives that utilize
4 telehealth technologies”; and

5 (ii) by striking “, to establish tele-
6 health resource centers”;

7 (2) in subsection (e), by striking “4 years” and
8 inserting “5 years”;

9 (3) in subsection (f)—

10 (A) by striking paragraph (2);

11 (B) in paragraph (1)(B)—

12 (i) by redesignating clauses (i)
13 through (iii) as paragraphs (1) through
14 (3), respectively, and adjusting the mar-
15 gins accordingly;

16 (ii) in paragraph (3), as so redesign-
17 nated by clause (i), by redesignating sub-
18 clauses (I) through (XII) as subparagraphs
19 (A) through (L), respectively, and adjust-
20 ing the margins accordingly; and

21 (iii) by striking “(1) TELEHEALTH
22 NETWORK GRANTS—” and all that follows
23 through “(B) TELEHEALTH NETWORKS—
24 ”; and

1 (C) in paragraph (3)(I), as so redesignated,
2 nated, by inserting “and substance use dis-
3 order” after “mental health” each place such
4 term appears;

5 (4) in subsection (g)(2), by striking “or im-
6 prove” and inserting “and improve”;

7 (5) by striking subsection (h);

8 (6) by redesignating subsections (i) through (p)
9 as subsection (h) through (o), respectively;

10 (7) in subsection (h), as so redesignated—

11 (A) in paragraph (1)—

12 (i) in subparagraph (B), by striking
13 “mental health, public health, long-term
14 care, home care, preventive” and inserting
15 “mental health care, public health services,
16 long-term care, home care, preventive
17 care”;

18 (ii) in subparagraph (E), by inserting
19 “and regional” after “local”; and

20 (iii) by striking subparagraph (F);

21 and

22 (B) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking
23 “medically underserved areas or” and inserting
24 “rural areas, medically underserved areas, or”;

1 (8) in paragraph (2) of subsection (i), as so re-
2 designated, by striking “ensure that—” and all that
3 follows through the end of subparagraph (B) and in-
4 serting “ensure that not less than 50 percent of the
5 funds awarded shall be awarded for projects in rural
6 areas.”;

7 (9) in subsection (j), as so redesignated—

8 (A) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “com-
9 puter hardware and software, audio and video
10 equipment, computer network equipment, inter-
11 active equipment, data terminal equipment, and
12 other”; and

13 (B) in paragraph (2)(F), by striking
14 “health care providers and”;

15 (10) in subsection (k), as so redesignated—

16 (A) in paragraph (2), by striking “40 per-
17 cent” and inserting “20 percent”; and

18 (B) in paragraph (3), by striking “(such as
19 laying cable or telephone lines, or purchasing or
20 installing microwave towers, satellite dishes,
21 amplifiers, or digital switching equipment)”;

22 (11) by striking subsections (q) and (r) and in-
23 serting the following:

24 “(p) REPORT.—Not later than 4 years after the date
25 of enactment of the Rural Delivery of Online Care Services

1 Reauthorization Act of 2020, and every 5 years thereafter,
2 the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the Committee
3 on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate
4 and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the
5 House of Representatives a report on the activities and
6 outcomes of the grant programs under subsection (b).”;

7 (12) by redesignating subsection (s) as sub-
8 section (q); and

9 (13) in subsection (q), as so redesignated, by
10 striking “this section—” and all that follows
11 through the end of paragraph (2) and inserting
12 “this section \$29,000,000 for each of fiscal years
13 2021 through 2025.”.

○