

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4942

To amend subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act to fund additional projects that focus on competency-based training for personal or home care aides, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 1, 2020

Mr. KING introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend subtitle A of title XX of the Social Security Act to fund additional projects that focus on competency-based training for personal or home care aides, 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 “Mollie Baldwin
5 Upskilling of Personal and Home Care Aides Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. EXPANSION OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**
 2 **PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE PROJECTS.**

3 Section 2008 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 4 1397g) is amended by adding at the end the following new
 5 subsection:

6 “(e) EXPANSION OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
 7 PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE PROJECTS.—

8 “(1) AUTHORITY TO AWARD GRANTS.—The
 9 Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of
 10 Labor, shall award grants to eligible entities to con-
 11 duct projects—

12 “(A) that employ upskilling training mod-
 13 els that focus on competency-based training
 14 for—

15 “(i) personal or home care aides (as
 16 defined in subsection (b));

17 “(ii) direct support professionals;

18 “(iii) home health aides; and

19 “(iv) nursing assistants; and

20 “(B) that are designed to provide eligible
 21 individuals with the opportunity to obtain edu-
 22 cation and training for positions as personal or
 23 home care aides (as so defined), direct support
 24 professionals, home health aides, or nursing as-
 25 sistants that pay a living wage and are expected

1 to either experience labor shortages or be in
 2 high demand; and

3 “(C) for which grants were awarded under
 4 subsection (a).

5 “(2) SELECTION OF PROJECTS.—

6 “(A) REQUIREMENTS FOR ELIGIBLE ENTI-
 7 TIES.—An eligible entity seeking to receive a
 8 grant under this subsection to conduct a project
 9 shall demonstrate—

10 “(i) that the eligible entity has suc-
 11 cessfully conducted the project in the past;
 12 and

13 “(ii) that the project implements the
 14 core training competencies for personal or
 15 home care aides described in subsection
 16 (b)(3)(A).

17 “(B) PRIORITY FOR RURAL AREAS AND
 18 UNDERSERVED URBAN AREAS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—In awarding
 20 grants under this subsection, the Secretary
 21 shall give priority to projects that sup-
 22 port—

23 “(I) rural areas (as defined in
 24 section 2007(f)); or

1 “(II) underserved urban areas
 2 (including urban health professional
 3 shortage areas (as defined in section
 4 332 of the Public Health Service
 5 Act)).

6 “(ii) THRESHOLD FOR PRIORITIZED
 7 PROJECTS.—In awarding grants under this
 8 subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that
 9 not less than 50 percent of the grants
 10 awarded under this subsection shall be for
 11 projects described in clause (i).

12 “(3) REPORTS AND EVALUATION.—

13 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—An eligible en-
 14 tity awarded a grant to expand a project under
 15 this subsection shall submit interim reports to
 16 the Secretary on the activities carried out under
 17 the project and a final report on such activities
 18 upon the conclusion of the entities’ participa-
 19 tion in the project.

20 “(B) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall,
 21 by grant, contract, or interagency agreement,
 22 evaluate the projects conducted under this sub-
 23 section. Such evaluation shall include identifica-
 24 tion of successful activities for creating oppor-
 25 tunities for developing and sustaining, particu-

1 larly with respect to low-income individuals and
2 other entry-level workers, a health and human
3 services professions workforce that has acces-
4 sible entry points, that meets high standards
5 for education, training, certification, and pro-
6 fessional development, that provides increased
7 wages and affordable benefits, including health
8 care coverage, that are responsive to the
9 workforce’s needs, and that is responsive to the
10 needs of diverse racial and ethnic communities.

11 “(C) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—The Sec-
12 retary shall submit interim reports and, based
13 on the evaluation conducted under subpara-
14 graph (B), a final report to Congress on the
15 projects conducted under this subsection.

16 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—Any term used in this sub-
17 section that is also used in subsection (a) shall have
18 the same meaning for purposes of this subsection as
19 such term has in such subsection (a).

20 “(5) FUNDING.—Out of any funds in the
21 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are ap-
22 propriated to the Secretary to carry out this sub-
23 section \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
24 through 2031.”.

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