

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5444

To amend the Public Health Service Act to address the shortage of medical laboratory personnel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

Ms. ROSS (for herself and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to address the shortage of medical laboratory personnel, 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 “Medical Laboratory
5 Personnel Shortage Relief Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCLUDING MEDICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL**
7 **AND SERVICES IN NATIONAL HEALTH SERV-**
8 **ICE CORPS PROGRAMS.**

9 (a) DEFINITION.—Section 331(a) of the Public
10 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (3)(D), by striking “or mental
2 health” and inserting “mental health, or medical
3 laboratory services”; and

4 (2) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(F) The term ‘medical laboratory personnel’—

6 “(i) means individuals—

7 “(I) seeking or receiving training in
8 an accredited medical laboratory science
9 program; or

10 “(II) employed in a position in which
11 the individual examines materials derived
12 from the human body for the purpose of
13 providing information for the diagnosis,
14 prevention, or treatment of a disease or
15 impairment of human beings; and

16 “(ii) includes phlebotomists, medical lab-
17 oratory assistants, histotechnologists, laboratory
18 scientists, laboratory technicians, and genetic
19 counselors.”.

20 (b) MEDICAL LABORATORY HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
21 TARGET AREAS.—Section 332 of the Public Health Serv-
22 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 254e) is amended by adding at the
23 end the following:

24 “(l) MEDICAL LABORATORY HEALTH PROFESSIONAL
25 TARGET AREAS.—

1 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry
2 out a program of—

3 “(A) identifying medical laboratory health
4 professional target areas; and

5 “(B) assigning members of the Corps who
6 are medical laboratory personnel to such areas.

7 “(2) APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—The provisions
8 of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (6) of sub-
9 section (k) shall apply to the identification of med-
10 ical laboratory health professional target areas and
11 the assignment of medical laboratory personnel
12 under this subsection except that—

13 “(A) references to maternity care health
14 professional target areas shall be treated as ref-
15 erences to medical laboratory health profes-
16 sional target areas; and

17 “(B) references to maternity care health
18 professionals and maternity care shall be treat-
19 ed as references to medical laboratory personnel
20 and medical laboratory services, respectively.”.

21 (c) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 338B of
22 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1) is
23 amended—

24 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “medical
25 laboratory personnel,” after “dentists,”; and

1 (2) in subsection (b)—

2 (A) by striking “an individual must—”
 3 and all that follows through “or physician as-
 4 sistant;” and inserting the following: “an indi-
 5 vidual must—

6 “(1)(A)(i) have a degree in medicine, osteo-
 7 pathic medicine, dentistry, or another health profes-
 8 sion, or an appropriate degree from a graduate pro-
 9 gram of behavioral and mental health;

10 “(ii) be certified as a nurse midwife, nurse
 11 practitioner, or physician assistant; or

12 “(iii) have a degree in medical laboratory
 13 science;”;

14 (B) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting
 15 “medical laboratory science,” after “mental
 16 health,”; and

17 (C) in paragraph (1)(C)(ii), by inserting
 18 “medical laboratory science,” after “dentistry,”.

19 **SEC. 3. MEDICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL EDUCATION**
 20 **PROGRAM.**

21 The Public Health Service Act is amended by insert-
 22 ing after section 778 (42 U.S.C. 295f–3) the following:

1 **“SEC. 779. MEDICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL EDUCATION**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants
4 to, or enter into contracts with, eligible entities that the
5 Secretary has determined are capable of carrying out such
6 grant or contract—

7 “(1) to plan, develop, operate, or participate in
8 an accredited medical laboratory professional edu-
9 cation program that awards an associate’s, bach-
10 elor’s, or graduate degree or certificate; and

11 “(2) to recruit, train, and develop faculty for
12 such program.

13 “(b) PRIORITIES IN MAKING AWARDS.—In awarding
14 grants and contracts under paragraph (1), the Secretary
15 shall give priority to eligible entities that—

16 “(1) utilize innovative approaches to clinical
17 teaching;

18 “(2) are committed to training individuals from
19 rural, underrepresented, or disadvantaged back-
20 grounds;

21 “(3) teach collaboration among health profes-
22 sionals; or

23 “(4) provide training in cultural competency
24 and health literacy.

1 “(c) DURATION OF AWARDS.—A grant or contract
2 awarded under this subsection shall be for a period of 3
3 years.

4 “(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,
5 the term ‘eligible entity’ means an accredited nonprofit
6 hospital, school of allied health, or nonprofit entity that
7 sponsors accredited internship programs required for pro-
8 fessional certification.

9 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
10 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

11 “(1) \$25,000,000 for the first full fiscal year
12 beginning after the date of enactment of this Act;
13 and

14 “(2) such sums as may be necessary for subse-
15 quent fiscal years.”.

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