

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4416

To establish procedures for the detailing of Public Health Service officers for purposes of advancing care in underserved communities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 28, 2026

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. TILLIS, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish procedures for the detailing of Public Health Service officers for purposes of advancing care in underserved communities.

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 “Public Health Services
5 for Advancing Care and Creating Efficient Support Sys-
6 tems in Underserved Communities Act” or the “PHS AC-
7 CESS Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. DETAIL OF PERSONNEL.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214 of the Public Health
3 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 215) is amended—

4 (1) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as
5 subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

6 (2) by inserting after subsection (c) the fol-
7 lowing:

8 “(d) The Secretary may detail Public Health Service
9 Commissioned Corps officers to Urban Indian organiza-
10 tions, as defined in section 4 of the Indian Health Care
11 Improvement Act, to cooperate in or conduct work related
12 to the functions of the Department of Health and Human
13 Services.”; and

14 (3) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

15 (A) by striking “subsections (b) and (c)”
16 and inserting “subsection (b) or (c)”; and

17 (B) by striking “subsections (b) or (c)”
18 and inserting “subsection (b) or (c)”.

19 (b) APPOINTMENT OF PERSONNEL.—Section 207(d)
20 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 209(d)) is
21 amended—

22 (1) in paragraph (1), by striking “shall,” and
23 inserting “may, at the discretion of the Secretary,
24 after consideration of the criteria described in para-
25 graph (5),”; and

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

1 “(5)(A) The Secretary shall develop objective, trans-
 2 parent criteria for purposes of determining whether to
 3 grant a person appointed under subsection (a) construc-
 4 tive credit for length of service as described in paragraph
 5 (1). Such criteria shall—

6 “(i) give preference to appointees who—

7 “(I) serve in a rural or remote (as deter-
 8 mined by the Secretary in accordance with ob-
 9 jective and transparent criteria established by
 10 the Secretary) agency for which the Service is
 11 statutorily required to provide services;

12 “(II) are specialists in an area with a dem-
 13 onstrated workforce shortage;

14 “(III) serve in an area with significant ac-
 15 cess to care challenges; or

16 “(IV) serve with an Indian tribe, tribal or-
 17 ganization, or Urban Indian organization (as
 18 such terms are defined in section 4 of the In-
 19 dian Health Care Improvement Act); and

20 “(ii) consider established Federal designation
 21 systems and workforce assessments.

22 “(B) The Secretary shall review and update the cri-
 23 teria established under subparagraph (A) periodically to
 24 reflect current workforce needs.”.

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