

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 975

To establish a grant program to support schools of medicine and schools of osteopathic medicine in underserved areas.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 12, 2025

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To establish a grant program to support schools of medicine and schools of osteopathic medicine in underserved areas.

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 “Expanding Medical
5 Education Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE AND SCHOOLS**
 2 **OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE IN UNDER-**
 3 **SERVED AREAS.**

4 Subpart II of part C of title VII of the Public Health
 5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293m et seq.) is amended by add-
 6 ing at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 749C. GRANTS FOR SCHOOLS OF MEDICINE AND**
 8 **SCHOOLS OF OSTEOPATHIC MEDICINE IN UN-**
 9 **DERSERVED AREAS.**

10 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants
 11 to institutions of higher education (including consortiums
 12 of such institutions) for the establishment, improvement,
 13 or expansion of a school of medicine or osteopathic medi-
 14 cine, or a branch campus of a school of medicine or osteo-
 15 pathic medicine.

16 “(b) PRIORITY.—In selecting grant recipients under
 17 this section, the Secretary shall give priority to any insti-
 18 tution of higher education (or consortium of such institu-
 19 tions) that—

20 “(1) proposes to use the grant for the establish-
 21 ment of a school of medicine or osteopathic medi-
 22 cine, or a branch campus of a school of medicine or
 23 osteopathic medicine, in an area—

24 “(A) in which—

25 “(i) no other such school is based; or

1 “(ii) in the case in which the school of
 2 medicine or osteopathic medicine proposed
 3 to be established would be a minority-serv-
 4 ing institution, no other minority-serving
 5 institution that includes a school of medi-
 6 cine or osteopathic medicine is based; and

7 “(B) that is a medically underserved com-
 8 munity or a health professional shortage area;
 9 or

10 “(2) is a minority-serving institution described
 11 in section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of
 12 1965 or an institution or program described in sec-
 13 tion 326(e) of such Act.

14 “(c) CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding grants under
 15 this section, the Secretary, to the extent practicable, may
 16 ensure equitable distribution of awards among the geo-
 17 graphical regions of the United States.

18 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An institution of higher edu-
 19 cation (or a consortium of such institutions)—

20 “(1) shall use grant amounts received under
 21 this section to—

22 “(A) recruit, enroll, and retain medical
 23 students who are pursuing a degree of doctor of
 24 medicine or doctor of osteopathy, including in-
 25 dividuals who are from disadvantaged back-

grounds (including racial and ethnic groups underrepresented among medical students and health professions), individuals from rural and underserved areas, low-income individuals, and first generation college students, at a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine or branch campus of a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine; and

“(B) develop, implement, and expand curriculum that emphasizes care for rural and underserved populations, including accessible and culturally and linguistically appropriate care and services, at such school or branch campus; and

“(2) may use grant amounts received under this section to—

“(A) plan and construct—

“(i) a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or a branch campus of a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, in an area in which no other such school is based; or

“(ii) a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or a branch campus of a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine,

1 that will be a minority-serving institution,
2 in an area in which no other such school
3 that is a minority-serving institution is
4 based;

5 “(B) plan, develop, and meet criteria for
6 accreditation for a school of medicine or osteo-
7 pathic medicine or branch campus of a school
8 of medicine or osteopathic medicine;

9 “(C) hire faculty, including faculty from
10 racial and ethnic groups who are underrep-
11 resented among the medical and other health
12 professions, and other staff to serve at such a
13 school or branch campus;

14 “(D) support educational programs at such
15 a school or branch campus;

16 “(E) modernize and expand infrastructure
17 at such a school or branch campus; and

18 “(F) support other activities that the Sec-
19 retary determines further the establishment,
20 improvement, or expansion of a school of medi-
21 cine or osteopathic medicine or branch campus
22 of a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine.

23 “(e) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
24 under subsection (a), an institution of higher education
25 (or a consortium of such institutions), shall submit an ap-

1 plication to the Secretary at such time, in such manner,
 2 and containing such information as the Secretary may re-
 3 quire, including a description of the institution's or con-
 4 sortium's planned activities described in subsection (d).

5 “(f) REPORTING.—

6 “(1) REPORTS FROM ENTITIES.—Each institu-
 7 tion of higher education, or consortium of such insti-
 8 tutions, awarded a grant under this section shall
 9 submit an annual report to the Secretary on the ac-
 10 tivities conducted under such grant, and other infor-
 11 mation as the Secretary may require.

12 “(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 5
 13 years after the date of enactment of this section and
 14 every 5 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit
 15 to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and
 16 Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on En-
 17 ergy and Commerce of the House of Representatives
 18 a report that provides a summary of the activities
 19 and outcomes associated with grants made under
 20 this section. Such reports shall include—

21 “(A) a list of awardees, including their pri-
 22 mary geographic location, and location of any
 23 school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, or a
 24 branch campus of school of medicine or osteo-

1 pathic medicine that was established, improved,
2 or expanded under this program;

3 “(B) the total number of students (includ-
4 ing the number of students from racial and eth-
5 nic groups underrepresented among medical
6 students and health professions, low-income
7 students, and first generation college students)
8 who—

9 “(i) are enrolled at or who have grad-
10 uated from any school of medicine or os-
11 teopathic medicine, or a branch campus of
12 school of medicine or osteopathic medicine,
13 that was established, improved, or ex-
14 panded under this program, deidentified
15 and disaggregated by race, ethnicity, age,
16 sex, geographic region, disability status,
17 and other relevant factors, to the extent
18 such information is available; and

19 “(ii) who subsequently participate in
20 an accredited internship or medical resi-
21 dency program upon graduation from any
22 school of medicine or osteopathic medicine,
23 or a branch campus of a school of medicine
24 or osteopathic medicine, that was estab-
25 lished, improved, or expanded under this

1 program, deidentified and disaggregated by
2 race, ethnicity, age, sex, geographic region,
3 disability status, medical specialty pursued,
4 and other relevant factors, to the extent
5 such information is available;

6 “(C) the effects of such program on the
7 health care provider workforce, including any
8 impact on demographic representation
9 disaggregated by race, ethnicity, and sex, and
10 the fields or specialties pursued by students
11 who have graduated from any school of medi-
12 cine or osteopathic medicine, or a branch cam-
13 pus of school of medicine or osteopathic medi-
14 cine, that was established, improved, or ex-
15 panded under this program;

16 “(D) the effects of such program on health
17 care access in underserved areas, including
18 medically underserved communities and health
19 professional shortage areas; and

20 “(E) recommendations for improving the
21 program described in this section, and any
22 other considerations as the Secretary deter-
23 mines appropriate.

24 “(3) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—The Secretary
25 shall make reports submitted under paragraph (2)

publicly available on the website of the Department of Health and Human Services.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) BRANCH CAMPUS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘branch campus’, with respect to a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, means an additional location of such school that is geographically apart and independent of the main campus, at which the school offers at least 50 percent of the program leading to a degree of doctor of medicine or doctor of osteopathy that is offered at the main campus.

“(B) INDEPENDENCE FROM MAIN CAMPUS.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the location of a school described in such subparagraph shall be considered to be independent of the main campus described in such subparagraph if the location—

“(i) is permanent in nature;

“(ii) offers courses in educational programs leading to a degree, certificate, or other recognized educational credential;

“(iii) has its own faculty and administrative or supervisory organization; and

1 “(iv) has its own budgetary and hiring
2 authority.

3 “(2) FIRST GENERATION COLLEGE STUDENT.—
4 The term ‘first generation college student’ has the
5 meaning given such term in section 402A(h)(3) of
6 the Higher Education Act of 1965.

7 “(3) HEALTH PROFESSIONAL SHORTAGE
8 AREA.—The term ‘health professional shortage area’
9 has the meaning given such term in section 332(a).

10 “(4) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—
11 The term ‘institution of higher education’ has the
12 meaning given such term in section 101 of the High-
13 er Education Act of 1965.

14 “(5) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—
15 The term ‘medically underserved community’ has the
16 meaning given such term in section 799B(6).

17 “(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
18 is authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-
19 essary to carry out this section.”.

○