

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1754

To reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 3, 2017

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Mr. TESTER, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. MANCHIN, Mr. DAINES, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BOOZMAN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, 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 “Training the Next
5 Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 The Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) The program of payments to teaching
4 health centers for graduate medical education under
5 section 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42
6 U.S.C. 256h) was enacted in 2010 to address the
7 crisis-level shortage of primary care physicians, espe-
8 cially in rural and medically underserved commu-
9 nities.

10 (2) Teaching health center residents and faculty
11 will provide more than one million primary care
12 medical visits in 2017 to underserved communities.

13 (3) When compared with traditional Medicare
14 GME residents, residents who train at teaching
15 health centers are more likely to practice primary
16 care and remain in underserved or rural commu-
17 nities.

18 (4) The teaching health center program not
19 only plays a vital role in training the Nation's next
20 generation of primary care physicians (including
21 dentists), but helps bridge the Nation's physician
22 shortfall.

23 (5) For these reasons, it is of vital importance
24 to continue the program under section 340H of the
25 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h) at a
26 sustainable level of funding per full-time equivalent

1 resident, as recommended in the fact sheet of the
 2 Health Resources and Services Administration enti-
 3 tled “Cost Estimates for Training Residents in a
 4 Teaching Health Center”.

5 **SEC. 3. REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAM OF PAYMENTS TO**
 6 **TEACHING HEALTH CENTERS THAT OPERATE**
 7 **GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION PRO-**
 8 **GRAMS.**

9 (a) PAYMENTS.—Subsection (a) of section 340H of
 10 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h) is amend-
 11 ed to read as follows:

12 “(a) PAYMENTS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection
 14 (h)(2), the Secretary shall make payments under
 15 this section for direct expenses and indirect expenses
 16 to qualified teaching health centers that are listed as
 17 sponsoring institutions by the relevant accrediting
 18 body for—

19 “(A) maintenance of existing approved
 20 graduate medical residency training programs;

21 “(B) expansion of existing approved grad-
 22 uate medical residency training programs; and

23 “(C) establishment of new approved grad-
 24 uate medical residency training programs.

25 “(2) NEW PROGRAMS.—

1 “(A) PAYMENTS.—The Secretary shall
2 make payments under paragraph (1)(C)—

3 “(i) for fiscal year 2019, for a total of
4 up to 60 full-time equivalent residents at
5 new approved graduate medical residency
6 programs; and

7 “(ii) for fiscal year 2020, for a total
8 of up to 120 full-time equivalent residents
9 at new approved graduate medical resi-
10 dency programs.

11 “(B) PRIORITY.—Subject to subparagraph
12 (C), in making payments pursuant to para-
13 graph (1)(C), the Secretary shall give priority
14 to qualified teaching health centers that—

15 “(i) serve a health professional short-
16 age area with a designation in effect under
17 section 332 or a medically underserved
18 community (as defined in section 799B);
19 or

20 “(ii) are located in a rural area (as
21 defined in section 1886(d)(2)(D) of the So-
22 cial Security Act).

23 “(C) LIMITATIONS.—The number of full-
24 time equivalent residents for which a qualified
25 teaching health center receives payments pursu-

1 ant to paragraph (1)(C) for a fiscal year shall
 2 not exceed by more than 6 the number of full-
 3 time equivalent residents for which the center
 4 received such payments for the preceding fiscal
 5 year. The total number of full-time equivalent
 6 residents at all qualified teaching health centers
 7 for which payments are made by the Secretary
 8 under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection
 9 (a)(1) shall not exceed the total number of full-
 10 time equivalent residents at all qualified teach-
 11 ing health centers for which payments were
 12 made by the Secretary as of January 1, 2017,
 13 pursuant to this section.”.

14 (b) FUNDING.—Subsection (g) of the first section
 15 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h)
 16 is amended to read as follows:

17 “(g) FUNDING.—

18 “(1) EXISTING PROGRAMS.—Out of any money
 19 in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there
 20 are appropriated for payments under subparagraphs
 21 (A) and (B) of subsection (a)(1) \$116,500,000 for
 22 each of fiscal years 2018, 2019, and 2020, to re-
 23 main available until expended.

24 “(2) INCENTIVE FOR NEW PROGRAMS.—Out of
 25 any money in the Treasury not otherwise appro-

1 priated, there are appropriated for payments under
 2 subsection (a)(1)(C), \$10,000,000 for fiscal year
 3 2019 and \$19,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, to re-
 4 main available until expended.

5 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the
 6 amount made available to carry out this section for
 7 any fiscal year, the Secretary may not use more
 8 than 5 percent of such amount for the expenses of
 9 administering this section.”.

10 (c) ANNUAL REPORTING.—Paragraph (1) of sub-
 11 section (h) of the first section 340H of the Public Health
 12 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h) is amended—

13 (1) by redesignating subparagraph (D) as sub-
 14 paragraph (H); and

15 (2) by inserting after subparagraph (C) the fol-
 16 lowing:

17 “(D) The number of patients treated by
 18 residents described in paragraph (4).

19 “(E) The number of visits by patients
 20 treated by residents described in paragraph (4).

21 “(F) Of the number of residents described
 22 in paragraph (4) who completed their residency
 23 training at the end of such residency academic
 24 year, the number and percentage of such resi-
 25 dents entering primary care practice (meaning

any of the areas of practice listed in the definition of a primary care residency program in section 749A).

“(G) Of the number of residents described in paragraph (4) who completed their residency training at the end of such residency academic year, the number and percentage of such residents who entered practice at a health care facility—

“(i) primarily serving a health professional shortage area with a designation in effect under section 332 or a medically underserved community (as defined in section 799B); or

“(ii) located in a rural area (as defined in section 1886(d)(2)(D) of the Social Security Act).”.

(d) REPORT ON TRAINING COSTS.—Not later than March 31, 2020, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall submit to the Congress a report on the direct graduate expenses of approved graduate medical residency training programs, and the indirect expenses associated with the additional costs of teaching residents, of qualified teaching health centers (as such terms are used

1 or defined in section 340H of the Public Health Service
2 Act (42 U.S.C. 256h)).

3 (e) DEFINITION.—Subsection (j) of the first section
4 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h)
5 is amended—

6 (1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) and (3) as
7 paragraphs (3) and (4), respectively; and

8 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
9 lowing:

10 “(2) NEW APPROVED GRADUATE MEDICAL
11 RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAM.—The term ‘new
12 approved graduate medical residency training pro-
13 gram’ means an approved graduate medical resi-
14 dency training program for which the sponsoring
15 qualified teaching health center has not received a
16 payment under this section for a previous fiscal year
17 (other than pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(C)).”.

18 (f) TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS.—Part D of title III
19 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.)
20 is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (f) of the first section 340H
22 (42 U.S.C. 256h), by striking “hospital” each place
23 it appears and inserting “teaching health center”;

1 (2) by redesignating the second subpart XI (re-
2 lating to a community-based collaborative care net-
3 work program) as subpart XII; and

4 (3) by redesignating the second section 340H
5 (42 U.S.C. 256i) as section 340I.

6 (g) PAYMENTS FOR PREVIOUS FISCAL YEARS.—The
7 provisions of the first section 340H of the Public Health
8 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h), as in effect on the day be-
9 fore the date of enactment of this Act, shall continue to
10 apply with respect to payments under such section for fis-
11 cal years before fiscal year 2018.

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