

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 970

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 1, 2019

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

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, 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 “Physical Therapist
5 Workforce and Patient Access Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS; PARTICIPA-**
 2 **TION OF PHYSICAL THERAPISTS IN LOAN RE-**
 3 **PAYMENT PROGRAM.**

4 (a) MISSION OF CORPS; DEFINITION OF PRIMARY
 5 HEALTH SERVICES.—Section 331(a)(3)(D) of the Public
 6 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(a)(3)(D)) is amended
 7 by striking “or mental health,” and inserting “mental
 8 health, or physical therapy,”.

9 (b) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 338B of
 10 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1) is
 11 amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a)—

13 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “; and”
 14 and inserting a semicolon;

15 (B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as
 16 paragraph (3); and

17 (C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the
 18 following:

19 “(2) an adequate supply of physical therapists,
 20 including physical therapists for the prevention,
 21 treatment, or management of pain for individuals
 22 with substance use disorders, or at risk of developing
 23 a substance use disorder; and”;

24 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

25 (A) in subparagraph (A)—

1 (i) by striking “, or be certified” and
 2 inserting “; be certified”; and

3 (ii) by inserting before the semicolon
 4 the following: “; or have a doctoral or mas-
 5 ter’s degree in physical therapy”;

6 (B) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
 7 “physical therapy,” after “mental health,”; and

8 (C) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by inserting
 9 “physical therapy,” after “dentistry,”; and

10 (3) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(i) ELIGIBILITY TO PARTICIPATE IN OTHER PRO-
 12 GRAMS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to pro-
 13 hibit any health care professional who is eligible to partici-
 14 pate in the program under this section from participating
 15 in any other loan repayment program established by the
 16 Secretary for which such professional is eligible.”.

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