

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1697

To address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding educational opportunities for midwives, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 19, 2021

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

A BILL

To address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding educational opportunities for midwives, 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 “Midwives for Maxi-
5 mizing Optimal Maternity Services Act of 2021” or the
6 “Midwives for MOMS Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. MIDWIFERY SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS.**

2 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Public Health
3 Service Act is amended by inserting after section 760 of
4 such Act (42 U.S.C. 294k) the following:

5 **“SEC. 760A. MIDWIFERY SCHOOLS AND PROGRAMS.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants
7 to institutions of higher education (as defined in sub-
8 sections (a) and (b) of section 101 of the Higher Edu-
9 cation Act of 1965) for the following:

10 “(1) Direct support of students in an accredited
11 midwifery school or program.

12 “(2) Establishment or expansion of an accred-
13 ited midwifery school or program.

14 “(3) Securing, preparing, or providing support
15 for increasing the number of, qualified preceptors
16 for training the students of an accredited midwifery
17 school or program.

18 “(b) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding
19 grants under subsection (a), the Secretary give special
20 consideration to any institution of higher education that—

21 “(1) agrees to prioritize students who plan to
22 practice in a health professional shortage area des-
23 ignated under section 332; and

24 “(2) demonstrates a focus on increasing racial
25 and ethnic minority representation in midwifery edu-
26 cation.

1 “(c) RESTRICTION.—The Secretary shall not provide
 2 any assistance under this section to be used with respect
 3 to a midwifery school or program within a school of nurs-
 4 ing (as defined in section 801).

5 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
 7 appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000
 8 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

9 “(2) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made
 10 available to carry out this section for any fiscal year,
 11 the Secretary shall use—

12 “(A) 50 percent for subsection (a)(1);

13 “(B) 25 percent for subsection (a)(2); and

14 “(C) 25 percent for subsection (a)(3).”.

15 (b) DEFINITIONS.—

16 (1) MIDWIFERY SCHOOL OR PROGRAM.—Sec-
 17 tion 799B(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act
 18 (42 U.S.C. 295p(1)(A)) is amended—

19 (A) by inserting “‘midwifery school or pro-
 20 gram’,” before “and ‘school of chiropractic’”;

21 (B) by inserting “a degree or certificate in
 22 midwifery or an equivalent degree or certifi-
 23 cate,” before “and a degree of doctor of chiro-
 24 practic or an equivalent degree”; and

1 (C) by striking “any such school” and in-
 2 serting “any such school or program”.

3 (2) ACCREDITED.—Section 799B(1)(E) of the
 4 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p(1)(E)) is
 5 amended by inserting “or a midwifery school or pro-
 6 gram,” before “or a graduate program in health ad-
 7 ministration”.

8 **SEC. 3. NURSE-MIDWIVES.**

9 Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act is amend-
 10 ed by inserting after section 811 of that Act (42 U.S.C.
 11 296j) the following:

12 **“SEC. 812. MIDWIFERY EXPANSION PROGRAM.**

13 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants
 14 to schools of nursing for the following:

15 “(1) Direct support of students in an accredited
 16 nurse-midwifery school or program.

17 “(2) Establishment or expansion of an accred-
 18 ited nurse-midwifery school or program.

19 “(3) Securing, preparing, or providing support
 20 for increasing the numbers of, preceptors at clinical
 21 training sites to precept students training to become
 22 certified nurse-midwives.

23 “(b) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding
 24 grants under subsection (a), the Secretary give special
 25 consideration to any school of nursing that—

1 “(1) agrees to prioritize students who choose to
 2 pursue an advanced education degree in nurse-mid-
 3 wifery to practice in a health professional shortage
 4 area designated under section 332; and

5 “(2) demonstrates a focus on increasing racial
 6 and ethnic minority representation in nurse-mid-
 7 wifery education.

8 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section,
 10 there is authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000
 11 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

12 “(2) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts made
 13 available to carry out this section for any fiscal year,
 14 the Secretary shall use—

15 “(A) 50 percent for subsection (a)(1);

16 “(B) 25 percent for subsection (a)(2); and

17 “(C) 25 percent for subsection (a)(3).”.

○