

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 619

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

MARCH 14, 2017

Mr. TESTER (for himself and Mr. WICKER) 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 2017”.

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)(1), by striking “and physi-
 13 cian assistants;” and inserting “physician assistants,
 14 and physical therapists;”; and

15 (2) in subsection (b)(1)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting be-
 17 fore the semicolon the following: “, or have a
 18 doctoral or master’s degree in physical ther-
 19 apy”;

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

22 (C) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by inserting
 23 “physical therapy,” after “dentistry,”.

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