

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3768

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

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 31, 2023

Mrs. HINSON (for herself and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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 2023” or the
6 “Midwives for MOMS Act of 2023”.

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 “(3) Securing, preparing, or providing support
11 for increasing the number of, qualified preceptors
12 for training the students of an accredited midwifery
13 school or program.

14 “(b) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding
15 grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give spe-
16 cial consideration to any institution of higher education
17 that—

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

21 “(2) demonstrates a focus on increasing racial
22 and ethnic minority representation in midwifery edu-
23 cation.

24 “(c) RESTRICTION.—The Secretary shall not provide
25 any assistance under this section to be used with respect

1 to a midwifery school or program within a school of nurs-
2 ing (as defined in section 801).

3 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

4 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
5 appropriated to carry out this section \$15,000,000
6 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

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

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

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

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

13 (b) DEFINITIONS.—

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

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

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

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

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

6 **SEC. 3. NURSE-MIDWIVES.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 “(b) SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In awarding
22 grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give spe-
23 cial consideration to any school of nursing that—

24 “(1) agrees to prioritize students who choose to
25 pursue an advanced education degree in nurse-mid-

1 wifery to practice in a health professional shortage
2 area designated under section 332; and

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

6 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section,
8 there is authorized to be appropriated \$20,000,000
9 for the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

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

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

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

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

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