

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 4829

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for the participation of physical therapists in the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment program, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand Medicare Rural Health Clinic Services and Federally Qualified Health Center Services to include physical therapy services, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 24, 2023

Ms. DEGETTE (for herself and Mr. ARMSTRONG) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## 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, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand Medicare Rural Health Clinic Services and Federally Qualified Health Center Services to include physical therapy services, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; FINDINGS.**

2 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
3 “Physical Therapist Workforce and Patient Access Act of  
4 2023”.

5 (b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds as follows:

6 (1) Physical therapists play an important role  
7 in the prevention, treatment, or management of pain  
8 for individuals, including those with substance use  
9 disorders, or at risk of developing a substance use  
10 disorder.

11 (2) Physical therapists are also playing an im-  
12 portant role in the physical rehabilitation needs of  
13 individuals who have developed chronic health condi-  
14 tions as a result of COVID–19.

15 (3) Physical therapist services are an essential  
16 component of the multidisciplinary undertaking that  
17 will be required to improve patient access and out-  
18 comes in medically underserved areas.

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

22 (a) **MISSION OF CORPS; DEFINITION OF PRIMARY**  
23 **HEALTH SERVICES.**—Section 331(a)(3)(D) of the Public  
24 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(a)(3)(D)) is amended  
25 by striking “or mental health,” and inserting “mental  
26 health, or physical therapy,”.

1 (b) PHYSICAL THERAPY HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  
2 TARGET AREAS.—Section 332 of the Public Health Serv-  
3 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 254e) is amended by adding at the  
4 end:

5 “(1) PHYSICAL THERAPY HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  
6 TARGET AREAS.—

7 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry  
8 out a program of—

9 “(A) identifying physical therapy health  
10 professional target areas; and

11 “(B) assigning members of the Corps who  
12 are physical therapists to such areas.

13 “(2) APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—The provisions  
14 of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (6) of sub-  
15 section (k) shall apply to the identification of phys-  
16 ical therapy health professional target areas and the  
17 assignment of physical therapists under this sub-  
18 section except that—

19 “(A) references to maternity care health  
20 professional target areas shall be treated as ref-  
21 erences to physical therapy health professional  
22 target areas; and

23 “(B) references to maternity care health  
24 professionals and maternity care shall be treat-

1           ed as references to physical therapists and  
2           physical therapy, respectively.”.

3           (c) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 338B of  
4 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1) is  
5 amended—

6           (1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “physical  
7 therapists,” after “dentists,”;

8           (2) in subsection (b)—

9           (A) by striking “(1)(A) have a degree in”  
10 and all that follows through the end of subpara-  
11 graph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the  
12 following:

13           “(1)(A)(i) have a degree in medicine, osteo-  
14 pathic medicine, dentistry, or another health profes-  
15 sion, or an appropriate degree from a graduate pro-  
16 gram of behavioral and mental health;

17           “(ii) be certified as a nurse midwife, nurse  
18 practitioner, or physician assistant; or

19           “(iii) have a doctoral or master’s degree in  
20 physical therapy;”;

21           (B) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting  
22 “physical therapy,” after “mental health,”; and

23           (C) in paragraph (1)(C)(ii), by inserting  
24 “physical therapy,” after “dentistry,”; and

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

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

7 **SEC. 3. EXPANDING MEDICARE RURAL HEALTH CLINIC**  
8                   **SERVICES AND FEDERALLY QUALIFIED**  
9                   **HEALTH CENTER SERVICES TO INCLUDE**  
10                   **PHYSICAL THERAPY SERVICES.**

11       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1861(aa) of the Social Se-  
12 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)) is amended—

13           (1) in paragraph (1)—

14                   (A) in subparagraph (C), by striking at the  
15 end “and”;

16                   (B) in subparagraph (D), by adding “and”  
17 at the end; and

18                   (C) by inserting after subparagraph (D)  
19 the following new subparagraph:

20                   “(E) such physical therapy services (as defined  
21 in subsection (p)) furnished by a physical thera-  
22 pist,”; and

23           (2) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “subpara-  
24 graphs (A) through (D)” and inserting “subpara-  
25 graphs (A) through (E)”.

1           (b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendments made by  
2 subsection (a) shall apply with respect to services fur-  
3 nished on or after January 1, 2025.

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