

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 860

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program for States that provide flexibility in licensing for health care providers who offer services on a volunteer basis.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2017

Mr. DUNCAN of Tennessee (for himself, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. COHEN) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program for States that provide flexibility in licensing for health care providers who offer services on a volunteer basis.

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 “Health for Each Amer-
5 ican Less fortunate Through Help from medical profes-
6 sionals In Every Rural and impoverished area Act of
7 2017” or the “HEALTHIER Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM FOR STATES PROVIDING FLEXI-**
2 **BILITY IN LICENSING FOR HEALTH CARE**
3 **PROVIDERS WHO OFFER SERVICES ON A VOL-**
4 **UNTEER BASIS.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
6 Human Services shall establish a two-year grant program
7 under which the Secretary awards grants to States that
8 adopt a volunteer health care provider law during the pe-
9 riod of the grant program and to States that have adopted
10 such a law before such period.

11 (b) VOLUNTEER HEALTH CARE PROVIDER LAW.—
12 For purposes of this section, the term “volunteer health
13 care provider law” means, a law of a State that permits
14 a health care provider to provide health care services in
15 such State (in this subsection referred to as the “volunteer
16 health care provider law State”), even though the provider
17 is not licensed in such State to provide such services, if—

18 (1) such services are offered and provided in
19 the volunteer health care provider law State solely
20 on a volunteer basis to rural or impoverished areas
21 (as defined by such volunteer health care provider
22 law State) that are located within such State; and

23 (2) such provider has an active, unencumbered
24 license to practice in another State and such services
25 are within the scope of practice of such provider (as

1 defined by such volunteer health care provider law
2 State).

3 (c) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

4 (1) ONE-TIME GRANT.—A State shall be eligible
5 for not more than one grant under this section.

6 (2) AMOUNT OF GRANT.—The amount of a
7 grant awarded a State under this section shall be
8 \$1,000,000.

9 (d) ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this
10 section:

11 (1) VOLUNTEER BASIS.—The term “volunteer
12 basis” means, with respect to health care services
13 provided by a health care provider, that such serv-
14 ices are provided by such provider—

15 (A) on behalf of a nonprofit organization,
16 such as a church or charity;

17 (B) without receipt by such provider of
18 compensation (other than reasonable reimburse-
19 ment or allowance for expenses actually in-
20 curred) for providing such services; and

21 (C) for a period not to exceed 7 consec-
22 tive days.

23 (2) STATE.—The term “State” means any of
24 the 50 States and the District of Columbia, the
25 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the United States

1 Virgin Islands, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands,
2 and American Samoa.

3 (e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
4 authorized to be appropriated \$56,000,000 for the period
5 of fiscal years 2018 through 2019 to carry out this sec-
6 tion.

○