

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1403

To amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to ensure that social work students or social work schools are eligible for support under certain programs that would assist individuals in pursuing health careers or for grants for training projects in geriatrics, and to establish a social work training program.

---

## IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 7, 2009

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

---

## A BILL

To amend title VII of the Public Health Service Act to ensure that social work students or social work schools are eligible for support under certain programs that would assist individuals in pursuing health careers or for grants for training projects in geriatrics, and to establish a social work training program.

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 “Strengthen Social  
5 Work Training Act of 2009”.

1 **SEC. 2. SOCIAL WORK STUDENTS.**

2 (a) HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOLS.—Section  
3 736(g)(1)(A) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
4 293(g)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting “, including a grad-  
5 uate program in clinical social work or a program in social  
6 work”, after “graduate program in behavioral or mental  
7 health”.

8 (b) SCHOLARSHIPS.—Section 737(d)(1)(A) of the  
9 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293a(d)(1)(A)) is  
10 amended by inserting “(including a graduate program in  
11 clinical psychology, a graduate program in clinical social  
12 work, or a program in social work)” after “mental health  
13 practice”.

14 (c) LOAN REPAYMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS REGARD-  
15 ING FACULTY POSITIONS.—Section 738(a) of the Public  
16 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293b(a)) is amended—

17 (1) in paragraph (2)—

18 (A) subparagraph (A), by inserting “social  
19 work,” after “nursing,”;

20 (B) subparagraph (B), by inserting “social  
21 work,” after “nursing,”; and

22 (2) in paragraph (3), by inserting “, including  
23 graduate programs in clinical psychology, graduate  
24 programs in clinical social work, or programs in so-  
25 cial work” after “offering graduate programs in be-  
26 havioral and mental health”.

1 **SEC. 3. GERIATRICS TRAINING PROJECTS.**

2 Section 753(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42  
3 U.S.C. 294c(b)) is amended—

4 (a) in paragraph (1)—

5 (1) by inserting “schools offering degrees in so-  
6 cial work,” after “teaching hospitals,”;

7 (2) by inserting “(including social workers)”  
8 after “behavioral and mental health professionals”;  
9 and

10 (3) by inserting “(including geriatric social  
11 work)” after “geriatric behavioral or mental health”;

12 (b) in paragraph (2)—

13 (1) in subparagraph (C)—

14 (A) by inserting “(including social work-  
15 ers)” after “mental health professionals”; and

16 (B) by inserting “(including social work)”  
17 after “geriatric behavioral or mental health”;  
18 and

19 (2) in subparagraph (d), by striking “geriatrics  
20 or behavioral or mental health” and inserting “geri-  
21 atrics, behavioral or mental health, or social work”;  
22 and

23 (c) in paragraph (3)(A)(iii)—

24 (1) by inserting “(including social workers)”  
25 after “behavioral and mental health professionals”;  
26 and

1           (2) by inserting “or departments of social  
2           work” after “departments of behavioral or mental  
3           health”.

4 **SEC. 4. SOCIAL WORK TRAINING PROGRAM.**

5           Subpart 2 of part E of title VII of the Public Health  
6           Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295 et seq.) is amended—

7           (1) by redesignating section 770 as section  
8           770A;

9           (2) by inserting after section 769, the following:

10 **“SEC. 770. SOCIAL WORK TRAINING PROGRAM.**

11           “(a) TRAINING.—The Secretary may make grants to,  
12           or enter into contracts with, any public or nonprofit pri-  
13           vate hospital, any school offering a program in social  
14           work, or any public or private nonprofit entity that the  
15           Secretary has determined is capable of carrying out such  
16           grant or contract—

17           “(1) to plan, develop, and operate, or partici-  
18           pate in, an approved social work training program  
19           (including an approved residency or internship pro-  
20           gram) for students, interns, residents, or practicing  
21           physicians;

22           “(2) to provide financial assistance (in the form  
23           of traineeships and fellowships) to students, interns,  
24           residents, practicing physicians, or other individuals,  
25           who—

1                   “(A) are in need of such assistance;

2                   “(B) are participants in any such program;

3                   and

4                   “(C) plan to specialize or work in the prac-  
5                   tice of social work;

6                   “(3) to plan, develop, and operate a program  
7                   for the training of individuals who plan to teach in  
8                   a social work training program; and

9                   “(4) to provide financial assistance (in the form  
10                  of traineeships and fellowships) to individuals who  
11                  are participants in any such traineeship or fellowship  
12                  program and who plan to teach in a social work  
13                  training program.

14                  “(b) ACADEMIC ADMINISTRATIVE UNITS.—

15                  “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award  
16                  grants to, or enter into contracts with, schools offer-  
17                  ing programs in social work to meet the costs of  
18                  projects to establish, maintain, or improve academic  
19                  administrative units (which may be departments, di-  
20                  visions, or other units) to provide clinical instruction  
21                  in social work.

22                  “(2) PREFERENCE IN MAKING AWARDS.—In  
23                  awarding grants and contracts under paragraph (1),  
24                  the Secretary shall give preference to any qualified

1 applicant for such an award that agrees to expend  
2 the award for the purpose of—

3 “(A) establishing an academic administra-  
4 tive unit for a program in social work; or

5 “(B) substantially expanding the programs  
6 of such a unit.

7 “(c) DURATION OF AWARD.—The period during  
8 which payments are made to an entity from an award of  
9 a grant or contract under subsection (a) may not exceed  
10 5 years. The provision of such payments shall be subject  
11 to annual approval by the Secretary and subject to the  
12 availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved  
13 to make the payments.

14 “(d) FUNDING.—

15 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
16 There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out  
17 this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years  
18 2010, 2011, and 2012.

19 “(2) ALLOCATION.—Of the amounts appro-  
20 priated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the  
21 Secretary shall make available not less than 20 per-  
22 cent for awards of grants and contracts under sub-  
23 section (b).”; and

1           (3) in section 770A, as redesignated by para-  
2           graph (1), by inserting “except for section 770,”  
3           after “carrying out this subpart,”.

4 **SEC. 5. CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER SERVICES.**

5           Section 1302 of the Public Health Service Act (42  
6 U.S.C. 300e-1) is amended—

7           (1) in paragraphs (1) and (2), by inserting  
8           “clinical social worker,” after “psychologist,” each  
9           place the term appears;

10          (2) in paragraph (4)(A), by striking “and psy-  
11          chologists” and inserting “psychologists, and clinical  
12          social workers”; and

13          (3) in paragraph (5), by inserting “clinical so-  
14          cial work,” after “psychology,”.

○