

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4031

To authorize the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration to award grants to expand or create health care provider pipeline programs.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 21, 2024

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

A BILL

To authorize the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration to award grants to expand or create health care provider pipeline programs.

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 “Providing Resources
5 and Opportunities for Health Education And Learning
6 Act of 2024” or the “PRO-HEAL Act of 2024”.

7 **SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM TO EXPAND OR CREATE HEALTH**
8 **CARE PROVIDER PIPELINES.**

9 (a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this Act:

1 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
2 trator” means the Administrator of the Health Re-
3 sources and Services Administration.

4 (2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible enti-
5 ty” means a State or institution of higher education.

6 (3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The
7 term “institution of higher education” has the
8 meaning given the term in section 101(a) of the
9 Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001(a)).

10 (4) STATE.—The term “State” means each of
11 the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Com-
12 monwealth of Puerto Rico, and each of the outlying
13 areas (as such term is defined in section 8101 of the
14 Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965
15 (20 U.S.C. 7801)).

16 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF GRANTS.—

17 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall
18 award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible enti-
19 ties to enable the eligible entities to expand or create
20 health care provider pipeline programs.

21 (2) DURATION.—Grants awarded under this
22 section shall be for a term of not more than 5 years.

23 (3) RESERVATION.—The Administrator shall
24 reserve 25 percent of amounts made available to
25 carry out this section to award grants to eligible en-

1 tities that are eligible institutions described in sec-
2 tion 371 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20
3 U.S.C. 1067q).

4 (4) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this
5 section, the Administrator shall give priority to—

6 (A) programs designed to serve under-
7 served or rural communities;

8 (B) programs designed to increase the
9 number of health care professionals who are
10 primary care providers; or

11 (C) eligible entities that intend to recruit a
12 majority of individuals to participate in the
13 health care provider pipeline program from
14 within the same State as the eligible entity or
15 in which the eligible entity is located.

16 (c) APPLICATION.—An eligible entity that desires to
17 receive a grant under this section shall submit an applica-
18 tion to the Administrator at such time, in such manner,
19 and accompanied by such information as the Adminis-
20 trator may require.

21 (d) USE OF FUNDS.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that re-
23 ceives a grant under this section shall use the grant
24 funds to expand or create health care provider pipe-
25 line programs that are designed to increase the num-

1 ber of one or more of the following groups of health
2 care professionals:

3 (A) Medical Doctors and Doctors of Osteo-
4 pathic Medicine.

5 (B) Physician Assistants.

6 (C) Nurse Practitioners.

7 (D) Nurses.

8 (E) Emergency Medical Technicians.

9 (F) Dentists.

10 (G) Behavioral Health Providers.

11 (2) ADDITIONAL PROVIDERS.—The Adminis-
12 trator may add to the list of health care profes-
13 sionals eligible for health care provider pipeline pro-
14 grams under paragraph (1) based on areas of need
15 and shortages across the Nation.

16 (e) REPORTS.—An eligible entity that receives a
17 grant under this section shall submit a report to the Ad-
18 ministrators, not later than 5 years after receiving the
19 grant and at the end of the grant period, on the implemen-
20 tation of the health care provider pipeline program, includ-
21 ing details on—

22 (1) a breakdown of funding uses;

23 (2) admission rates to the program;

24 (3) admission criteria for the program;

25 (4) demographics of admitted students; and

1 (5) program drop-out rates.

2 (f) GRANTS AFTER REAUTHORIZATION.—If the
3 grant program under this section is authorized for a fiscal
4 year after fiscal year 2029, the Administrator, in awarding
5 grants after fiscal year 2029, shall give priority to eligible
6 entities that have already received a grant under this sec-
7 tion.

8 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
9 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
10 \$215,000,000 for the period of fiscal years 2025 through
11 2029.

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