

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 4357

To improve access to oral health care for vulnerable and underserved populations.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MAY 16, 2024

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

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## A BILL

To improve access to oral health care for vulnerable and underserved populations.

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; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the  
5 “Comprehensive Dental Reform Act of 2024”.

6 (b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—The table of contents for  
7 this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

### TITLE I—MEDICARE AND MEDICAID

#### Subtitle A—Medicare

Sec. 101. Coverage of dental services under the Medicare program.

Subtitle B—Medicaid

Sec. 111. Coverage of dental services under the Medicaid program.

TITLE II—PUBLIC HEALTH PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—National Health Service Corps

Sec. 201. National Health Service Corps.  
 Sec. 202. Community based dental residencies.  
 Sec. 203. Community-based training of dental students.

Subtitle B—Oral Health Education

Sec. 211. Authorization of appropriations for oral health education for medical providers.  
 Sec. 212. Oral health education for other non-health professionals.  
 Sec. 213. Dental education.  
 Sec. 214. Oral health professional student loans.

Subtitle C—Other Oral Health Programs

Sec. 221. Access points.  
 Sec. 222. Dental clinics in schools.  
 Sec. 223. Emergency department care coordination.  
 Sec. 224. Research funding.  
 Sec. 225. Mobile and portable dental services.

Subtitle D—Oral Health Services as an Essential Health Benefit

Sec. 231. Oral health services as an essential health benefit.

TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS MATTERS

Sec. 301. Requirement that Secretary of Veterans Affairs furnish dental care in the same manner as any other medical service.  
 Sec. 302. Demonstration program on training and employment of alternative dental health care providers for dental health care services for veterans in rural and other underserved communities.  
 Sec. 303. Program of education to promote dental health in veterans.  
 Sec. 304. Student loan repayment program to incentivize dental training and ensure the dental workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs.  
 Sec. 305. Educational and training partnerships for dentists, dental hygienists, and oral surgeons.

TITLE IV—FEDERAL BUREAU OF PRISONS

Sec. 401. Demonstration program on training and employment of alternative dental health care providers for dental health care services for prisoners within the custody of the Bureau of Prisons.

TITLE V—INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Sec. 501. Demonstration program on training and employment of alternative dental health care providers for dental health care services under the Indian Health Service.

## TITLE VI—REPORTS TO CONGRESS

Sec. 601. Reports on enrollment in coverage for oral health services.

1           **TITLE I—MEDICARE AND**  
 2                           **MEDICAID**

3                           **Subtitle A—Medicare**

4   **SEC. 101. COVERAGE OF DENTAL SERVICES UNDER THE**  
 5                           **MEDICARE PROGRAM.**

6           (a) **COVERAGE.**—Section 1861(s)(2) of the Social Se-  
 7   curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(2)) is amended—

8                   (1) in subparagraph (JJ), by inserting “and”  
 9           after the semicolon at the end; and

10                   (2) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
 11   paragraph:

12                   “(KK) oral health services (as defined in sub-  
 13   section (nnn));”.

14           (b) **ORAL HEALTH SERVICES DEFINED.**—Section  
 15   1861 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x) is  
 16   amended by adding at the end the following new sub-  
 17   section:

18                           “Oral Health Services

19                   “(nnn)(1) The term ‘oral health services’ means serv-  
 20   ices (as defined by the Secretary) that are necessary to  
 21   prevent disease and promote oral health, restore oral  
 22   structures to health and function, and treat emergency  
 23   conditions.

1 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), such term shall  
2 include mobile and portable oral health services (as de-  
3 fined by the Secretary) that—

4 “(A) are provided for the purpose of over-  
5 coming mobility, transportation, and access barriers  
6 for individuals; and

7 “(B) satisfy the standards and certification re-  
8 quirements established under section 1902(a)(88)(C)  
9 for the State in which the services are provided.”.

10 (c) PAYMENT AND COINSURANCE.—Section  
11 1833(a)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
12 1395l(a)(1)) is amended—

13 (1) by striking “and” before “(HH)”; and

14 (2) by inserting before the semicolon at the end  
15 the following: “, and (II) with respect to oral health  
16 services (as defined in section 1861(nnn)), the  
17 amount paid shall be (i) in the case of such services  
18 that are preventive, 100 percent of the lesser of the  
19 actual charge for the services or the amount deter-  
20 mined under the payment basis determined under  
21 section 1848, and (ii) in the case of all other such  
22 services, 80 percent of the lesser of the actual  
23 charge for the services or the amount determined  
24 under the payment basis determined under section  
25 1848”.

1 (d) PAYMENT UNDER PHYSICIAN FEE SCHEDULE.—  
2 Section 1848(j)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
3 1395w-4(j)(3)) is amended by inserting “(2)(KK),” after  
4 “risk assessment),”.

5 (e) DENTURES.—Section 1861(s)(8) of the Social Se-  
6 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x(s)(8)) is amended—

7 (1) by striking “(other than dental)” and in-  
8 serting “(including dentures)”; and

9 (2) by striking “internal body”.

10 (f) REPEAL OF GROUND FOR EXCLUSION.—Section  
11 1862(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395y) is  
12 amended by striking paragraph (12).

13 (g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by  
14 this section shall apply to services furnished on or after  
15 January 1, 2025.

## 16 **Subtitle B—Medicaid**

### 17 **SEC. 111. COVERAGE OF DENTAL SERVICES UNDER THE** 18 **MEDICAID PROGRAM.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905 of the Social Secu-  
20 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d) is amended—

21 (1) in subsection (a)(10), by striking “dental  
22 services” and inserting “oral health services (as de-  
23 fined in subsection (kk)(1))”; and

24 (2) by adding at the end the following:

1       “(kk)(1) Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), for pur-  
2 poses of this title, the term ‘oral health services’ means  
3 services (as defined by the Secretary) that are necessary  
4 to prevent disease and promote oral health, restore oral  
5 structures to health and function, and treat emergency  
6 conditions. These services shall include, in the case of  
7 pregnant or postpartum women, such services as are nec-  
8 essary to address oral health conditions that exist or are  
9 exacerbated by pregnancy or childbirth or which, if left  
10 untreated, could adversely affect fetal or child develop-  
11 ment.

12       “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), such term shall  
13 include—

14               “(A) dentures; and

15               “(B) mobile and portable oral health services  
16 (as defined by the Secretary) that—

17                       “(i) are provided for the purpose of over-  
18 coming mobility, transportation, and access bar-  
19 riers for individuals; and

20                       “(ii) satisfy the standards and certification  
21 requirements established under section  
22 1902(a)(88)(C) for the State in which the serv-  
23 ices are provided.

1       “(3) For purposes of paragraph (1), such term shall  
2 not apply to dental care or services provided to individuals  
3 under the age of 21 under subsection (r)(3).”.

4       (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

5           (1) STATE PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—Section  
6 1902(a) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1396a(a)) is amend-  
7 ed—

8           (A) in paragraph (10)(A), in the matter  
9 preceding clause (i), by inserting “(10),” after  
10 “(5),”;

11           (B) in paragraph (86), by striking “and”  
12 at the end;

13           (C) in paragraph (87), by striking the pe-  
14 riod at the end and inserting “; and”; and

15           (D) by inserting after paragraph (87) the  
16 following:

17           “(88) provide for—

18           “(A) informing, in writing, all individuals  
19 who have been determined to be eligible for  
20 medical assistance of the availability of oral  
21 health services (as defined in section 1905(kk));

22           “(B) conducting targeted outreach to preg-  
23 nant women who have been determined to be el-  
24 igible for medical assistance about the avail-  
25 ability of medical assistance for such dental

1 services and the importance of receiving dental  
2 care while pregnant; and

3 “(C) establishing and maintaining stand-  
4 ards for and certification of mobile and portable  
5 oral health services (as described in subsections  
6 (r)(3)(C) and (kk)(2)(B) of section 1905).”.

7 (2) DEFINITION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE.—  
8 Section 1905(a)(12) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
9 1396d(a)(12)) is amended by striking “, dentures,”.

10 (c) MOBILE AND PORTABLE ORAL HEALTH SERV-  
11 ICES UNDER EPSDT.—Section 1905(r)(3) of the Social  
12 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(r)(3)) is amended—

13 (1) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “; and”  
14 and inserting a semicolon;

15 (2) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period  
16 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

17 (3) by adding at the end the following new sub-  
18 paragraph:

19 “(C) which shall include mobile and portable  
20 oral health services (as defined by the Secretary)  
21 that—

22 “(i) are provided for the purpose of over-  
23 coming mobility, transportation, or access bar-  
24 riers for children; and



1           “(ii) satisfy the standards and certification  
2 requirements established under section  
3 1902(a)(88)(C) for the State in which the serv-  
4 ices are provided.”.

5           (d) INCREASED FEDERAL FUNDING FOR DENTAL  
6 SERVICES.—

7           (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 1905 of the Social  
8 Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d), as amended by sub-  
9 section (a), is further amended—

10           (A) in subsection (b), in the first sentence,  
11 by striking “and (ii)” and inserting “(ii), and  
12 (ll)”;

13           (B) by adding at the end the following new  
14 subsection:

15           “(ll) INCREASED FMAP FOR ORAL HEALTH SERV-  
16 ICES.—

17           “(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection  
18 (b) and section 1903(a)(7) and subject to the re-  
19 quirements described in paragraphs (3) and (4),  
20 with respect to amounts expended on or after Janu-  
21 ary 1, 2025, for covered oral health expenses (as de-  
22 scribed in paragraph (2)), the Federal medical as-  
23 sistance percentage for a State that is one of the 50  
24 States or the District of Columbia for such expenses  
25 shall be equal to the Federal medical assistance per-

1 centage that would otherwise apply to the State for  
2 the fiscal year, as determined under subsection (b)  
3 or section 1903(a)(7), increased by 15 percentage  
4 points.

5 “(2) COVERED ORAL HEALTH EXPENSES.—For  
6 purposes of paragraph (1), the term ‘covered oral  
7 health expenses’ means the amounts expended for  
8 medical assistance for oral health services (as de-  
9 fined in subsection (kk)) and amounts expended for  
10 the proper and efficient administration of the provi-  
11 sion of such oral health services under the State  
12 plan.

13 “(3) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of para-  
14 graph (1), the Federal medical assistance percentage  
15 applicable to covered oral health expenses under this  
16 subsection shall not apply to a State unless—

17 “(A) the State plan for medical assistance  
18 provides payment for oral health services (as so  
19 defined) furnished by a health care provider at  
20 a rate that is not less than 70 percent of the  
21 usual and customary fee for such services in the  
22 State; and

23 “(B) the State satisfies such additional re-  
24 quirements as are established by the Secretary,  
25 which shall include—

1           “(i) streamlining of administrative  
2           procedures for purposes of ensuring ade-  
3           quate provider participation and increasing  
4           patient utilization of oral health services;  
5           and

6           “(ii) the provision of technical assist-  
7           ance to health care providers designed to  
8           reduce the number of missed patient ap-  
9           pointments and reduce other barriers to  
10          the delivery of oral health services.

11          “(4) LIMITATION.—For purposes of amounts  
12          expended for covered oral health services, in no case  
13          shall any increase under this subsection result in a  
14          Federal medical assistance percentage that exceeds  
15          100 percent.”.

16          (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section  
17          1903(a)(7) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.  
18          1396b(a)(7)) is amended by striking “section  
19          1919(g)(3)(B)” and inserting “sections 1905(ll) and  
20          1919(g)(3)(B)”.

21          (e) SECRETARIAL RESPONSIBILITIES.—

22          (1) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND OUTREACH.—  
23          The Secretary of Health and Human Services, act-  
24          ing through the Administrator of the Centers for  
25          Medicare & Medicaid Services, shall provide tech-

1 nical assistance to States and conduct outreach to  
2 States for purposes of educating and encouraging  
3 States to utilize and provide payment under each  
4 State Medicaid program for telehealth-enabled den-  
5 tal services in order to provide dental services to tra-  
6 ditionally underserved populations in need of such  
7 services.

8 (2) DATABASE AND ANNUAL REPORT ON DEN-  
9 TAL BENEFITS FOR ADULT MEDICAID ENROLLEES.—

10 (A) MEDICAID DENTAL BENEFITS DATA-  
11 BASE.—The Secretary of Health and Human  
12 Services, acting through the Administrator of  
13 the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services,  
14 shall maintain, as accurately and up-to-date as  
15 possible, a database that contains with respect  
16 to each State (as defined for purposes of title  
17 XIX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396  
18 et seq.)) information regarding the dental bene-  
19 fits available for adults enrolled in the State  
20 Medicaid program, including any limits on such  
21 benefits and the amount of reimbursement pro-  
22 vided under the State Medicaid program for  
23 such benefits. The database also shall include a  
24 separate description of the dental benefits, ben-  
25 efit limits, and amount of reimbursement pro-

1           vided under each State Medicaid program for  
2           pregnant women, if such benefits are not pro-  
3           vided to the woman as part of early and peri-  
4           odic screening, diagnostic, and treatment serv-  
5           ices (as defined in section 1905(r) of the Social  
6           Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1396d(r))), and a de-  
7           scription of the use of dental services by chil-  
8           dren and adults enrolled in the State Medicaid  
9           program.

10           (B) ANNUAL REPORT.—The Secretary of  
11           Health and Human Services shall make avail-  
12           able to the public an annual report regarding  
13           the information collected in the database re-  
14           quired under subparagraph (A). Each annual  
15           report under this subparagraph shall include for  
16           each State Medicaid program and with respect  
17           to the most recent year for which data are  
18           available the yearly dental service utilization  
19           rates for children and adults enrolled in the  
20           State Medicaid program.

21           (f) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

22           (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-  
23           graph (2), the amendments made by this section  
24           shall apply to calendar quarters beginning on or  
25           after January 1, 2025, without regard to whether or

1 not final regulations to carry out such amendments  
2 have been promulgated by such date.

3 (2) DELAY PERMITTED FOR STATE PLAN  
4 AMENDMENT.—In the case of a State plan for med-  
5 ical assistance under title XIX of the Social Security  
6 Act which the Secretary of Health and Human Serv-  
7 ices determines requires State legislation (other than  
8 legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan  
9 to meet the additional requirements imposed by the  
10 amendments made by this section, the State plan  
11 shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the  
12 requirements of such title solely on the basis of its  
13 failure to meet these additional requirements before  
14 the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning  
15 after the close of the first regular session of the  
16 State legislature that begins after the date of enact-  
17 ment of this Act. For purposes of the previous sen-  
18 tence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legis-  
19 lative session, each year of such session shall be  
20 deemed to be a separate regular session of the State  
21 legislature.

1           **TITLE II—PUBLIC HEALTH**  
2                           **PROGRAMS**  
3           **Subtitle A—National Health**  
4                           **Service Corps**

5   **SEC. 201. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.**

6           (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 331 of the Public Health  
7   Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d) is amended—

8                   (1) in subsection (a)(3), by adding at the end  
9   the following:

10                           “(F) The term ‘dental therapist’ means,  
11                           with respect to a State or Tribal government  
12                           that licenses or certifies such dental therapists,  
13                           a mid-level dental practitioner who—

14                                   “(i)(I) is licensed to practice under  
15                                   the law of the State; or

16                                   “(II) is certified to practice under the  
17                                   Community Health Aide Program of the  
18                                   Indian Health Service under section 119 of  
19                                   the Indian Health Care Improvement Act;  
20                                   and

21                                   “(ii) provides preventive and restora-  
22                                   tive services directly to the public, com-  
23                                   mensurate with the scope of the practice.”;  
24                                   and

25                   (2) in subsection (b)—

1 (A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “dental  
2 therapy programs and” after “schools at  
3 which”; and

4 (B) in paragraph (2), by inserting “dental  
5 therapists,” after “dentists,”.

6 (b) FACILITATION OF EFFECTIVE PROVISION OF  
7 CORPS SERVICES.—Section 336(f)(3) of the Public Health  
8 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254h–1(f)(3)) is amended by in-  
9 serting “dental therapists,” after “midwives,”.

10 (c) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM AND LOAN REPAYMENT  
11 PROGRAM.—

12 (1) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—Section 338A of  
13 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l) is  
14 amended—

15 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “den-  
16 tal therapists,” after “dentists,”; and

17 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by inserting “in-  
18 cluding dental therapy,” after “or other health  
19 profession,”.

20 (2) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section  
21 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
22 254l–1) is amended—

23 (A) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “den-  
24 tal therapists,” after “dentists,”; and

25 (B) in subsection (b)(1)—



1 (i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting  
 2 “dental therapist,” after “nurse practi-  
 3 tioner,”;

4 (ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting  
 5 “dental therapy,” after “mental health,”;  
 6 and

7 (iii) in subparagraph (C)(ii), by in-  
 8 serting “, including dental therapy” after  
 9 “health profession”.

10 (3) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

11 Section 338H of the Public Health Service Act (42  
 12 U.S.C. 254q) is amended—

13 (A) in subsection (a), by striking “this sec-  
 14 tion” and inserting “this subpart”; and

15 (B) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS WITH  
 17 RESPECT TO ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—To carry  
 18 out this subpart with respect to dentists, dental therapists,  
 19 and dental hygienists, in addition to the amounts author-  
 20 ized under subsection (a), there is authorized to be appro-  
 21 priated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years  
 22 2025 through 2028, which shall be used to provide an  
 23 emergency expansion for scholarships to, and loan repay-  
 24 ments on behalf of, such oral health professionals.”.

1 **SEC. 202. COMMUNITY BASED DENTAL RESIDENCIES.**

2 Section 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42  
3 U.S.C. 256h) is amended by adding at the ending the fol-  
4 lowing:

5 “(k) **ADDITIONAL FUNDING.**—For the purpose of ex-  
6 panding dental residencies at teaching health centers that  
7 operate graduate medical education programs, there is au-  
8 thorized to be appropriated such sums as may be nec-  
9 essary for each of fiscal years 2025 through 2028”.

10 **SEC. 203. COMMUNITY-BASED TRAINING OF DENTAL STU-**  
11 **DENTS.**

12 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of Health and  
13 Human Services (referred to in this section as the “Sec-  
14 retary”) shall establish a pilot program under which the  
15 Secretary awards grants to eligible entities for the purpose  
16 of supporting the community-based training of dental stu-  
17 dents. Such grants shall be for a 5-year period, beginning  
18 in fiscal year 2025.

19 (b) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—To be eligible to receive a  
20 grant under this section, an entity shall—

21 (1) be a Federally-qualified health center, rural  
22 health center, or Tribal health facility; and

23 (2) submit an application to the Secretary at  
24 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-  
25 formation as the Secretary may require.

26 (c) **SELECTION OF AWARDEES.**—

1           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award 6  
2           grants under this section to eligible entities de-  
3           scribed in subsection (b). In making such awards,  
4           the Secretary shall ensure that each entity receiving  
5           a grant operates in a different State (including each  
6           of the several States and the District of Columbia),  
7           territory, or Tribal territory.

8           (2) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this  
9           section, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible  
10          entities that—

11                 (A) have a focus on training students in  
12                 rural and underserved areas;

13                 (B) partner with dental professional  
14                 schools and programs associated with a histori-  
15                 cally Black college or university (as defined by  
16                 the term “part B institution” in section 322 of  
17                 the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C.  
18                 1061)) or minority-serving institutions (as de-  
19                 scribed in section 371 of such Act (20 U.S.C.  
20                 1067q)); or

21                 (C) are located in a State or geographic  
22                 area without a dental school.

23          (d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a  
24          grant under this section—

1           (1) shall use such funds to establish a training  
2 program for dental, dental hygienist, dental therapy,  
3 and dental assistant students in a community-based,  
4 outpatient setting;

5           (2) may use such funds—

6                 (A) to support faculty and preceptor wages  
7 and living stipends for trainees;

8                 (B) to purchase equipment, education  
9 tools, and make renovations or alterations to a  
10 training site; and

11                (C) to provide supportive services such as  
12 child care, transportation, and food assistance  
13 to enable students to persist in and complete a  
14 training program; and

15           (3) may use up to 5 percent of the grant  
16 amount for planning and development, data collec-  
17 tion and reporting, other administrative purposes.

18           (e) REPORTING.—

19                 (1) REPORTS FROM ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Each  
20 eligible entity receiving a grant under this section  
21 shall submit such reports on the program supported  
22 by the grant as the Secretary may require.

23                 (2) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1  
24 year after the date on which the program under this  
25 section terminates under subsection (f), the Sec-

1       retary shall submit to the Committee on Health,  
2       Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and  
3       the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the  
4       House of Representatives a report on the program.

5       (f) SUNSET.—The grant program under this section  
6 shall terminate on September 30, 2029.

7       (g) APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry out this section,  
8 there is appropriated, out of amounts in the Treasury not  
9 otherwise appropriated, \$4,500,000 for fiscal year 2025,  
10 to remain available through the end of fiscal year 2029.

## 11       **Subtitle B—Oral Health Education**

### 12       **SEC. 211. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR ORAL** 13                       **HEALTH EDUCATION FOR MEDICAL PRO-** 14                       **VIDERS.**

15       Section 747(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42  
16 U.S.C. 293k(c)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-  
17 lowing:

18               “(4) ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION.—In addition  
19       to other amounts authorized under this subsection  
20       for purposes of carrying out this section, there is au-  
21       thorized to be appropriated such sums as may be  
22       necessary for fiscal years 2025 through 2028 for the  
23       purpose of educating nondental medical professionals  
24       (including physicians, nurses, nurse practitioners,  
25       physician assistants, and pharmacists and particu-

1 larly such professionals who provide care to children  
2 and pregnant and postpartum women) about oral  
3 health, including issues such as oral hygiene instruc-  
4 tion, topical application of fluoride, and oral health  
5 screenings, with the goal of integrating oral health  
6 care into overall health care.”.

7 **SEC. 212. ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOR OTHER NON-**  
8 **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.**

9 Subpart I of part C of title VII of the Public Health  
10 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293k et seq.) is amended by insert-  
11 ing after section 748 the following:

12 **“SEC. 748A. ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOR OTHER NON-**  
13 **ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants  
15 to, or enter into contracts with, an accredited public or  
16 nonprofit private hospital, educational institutions, or pub-  
17 lic or private nonprofit entities that the Secretary has de-  
18 termined to be capable of carrying out such grant or con-  
19 tract to educate individuals, such as community health  
20 workers, social workers, nutritionists, health educators,  
21 occupational therapists, and psychologists, to promote oral  
22 health education and literacy and to provide support for  
23 behavior change and assistance with care coordination  
24 with respect to oral health.

1       “(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
2 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-  
3 priated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years  
4 2025 through 2028.”.

5 **SEC. 213. DENTAL EDUCATION.**

6       Section 748 of the Public Health Service Act (42  
7 U.S.C. 293k-2) is amended—

8           (1) in subsection (a)(1)(H), by striking “pedi-  
9       atric training programs” and inserting “pediatric  
10       dental training programs”; and

11          (2) in subsection (c)—

12           (A) by striking the subsection heading and  
13       inserting “REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARD.—”;

14           (B) by amending the matter preceding  
15       paragraph (1) to read as follows: “With respect  
16       to training provided for under this section, the  
17       Secretary shall award grants or contracts only  
18       to eligible entities that meet at least 7 of the  
19       following criteria:”;

20           (C) in paragraph (2), by striking “have a  
21       record of training the greatest percentage of  
22       providers, or that have demonstrated significant  
23       improvements in the percentage of providers,  
24       who enter and” and inserting “train significant  
25       numbers of providers who”;

1 (D) in paragraph (3)—

2 (i) by striking “have a record of train-  
3 ing” and inserting “intend to train”; and

4 (ii) by striking the period at the end  
5 and inserting “and have faculty with expe-  
6 rience in treating underserved popu-  
7 lations.”;

8 (E) in paragraph (8), by inserting “or  
9 have established” after “establish”; and

10 (F) by adding at the end the following:

11 “(9) Qualified applicants that require not less  
12 than 200 hours of community-based education rota-  
13 tions.”.

14 **SEC. 214. ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL STUDENT LOANS.**

15 Subpart 3 of part E of title VII of the Public Health  
16 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295f et seq.) is amended by adding  
17 at the end the following:

18 **“SEC. 779. ORAL HEALTH PROFESSIONAL STUDENT LOANS.**

19 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish  
20 and operate a student loan fund for oral health profes-  
21 sional students, including dental hygienists, dental thera-  
22 pists, and dentists.

23 “(b) CONTENT.—The Secretary shall establish and  
24 operate the student loan fund program under subsection  
25 (a) in the same manner and subject to the same terms



1 as the loan fund program established with schools of nurs-  
 2 ing under section 835.

3 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
 4 carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-  
 5 priated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years  
 6 2025 through 2028.”.

## 7 **Subtitle C—Other Oral Health** 8 **Programs**

### 9 **SEC. 221. ACCESS POINTS.**

10 Subpart X of part D of title III of the Public Health  
 11 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256f et seq.) is amended by adding  
 12 at the end the following:

#### 13 **“SEC. 340G-2. FUNDING FOR ORAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

14 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through  
 15 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services  
 16 Administration, shall establish a program to award grants  
 17 to eligible entities to provide oral health services, or to con-  
 18 tract with private dental practices to provide comprehen-  
 19 sive oral health services, to low-income individuals and in-  
 20 dividuals who are underserved with respect to oral health  
 21 care.

22 “(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall  
 23 provide technical assistance to entities receiving grants  
 24 under subsection (a) to provide technical assistance to  
 25 such entities in order to—

1           “(1) with respect to oral health care services,  
2           increase utilization and efficiency and minimize  
3           missed appointments, contract with offsite providers,  
4           recruit providers (including oral health specialists),  
5           and operate programs outside the physical facilities  
6           to take advantage of new systems to improve access  
7           to oral health services;

8           “(2) address barriers to access to such services  
9           and conduct targeted outreach to special populations  
10          such as pregnant women, individuals with disabili-  
11          ties, individuals with chronic conditions such as dia-  
12          betes, and individuals residing in long-term care fa-  
13          cilities; or

14          “(3) contract with private dental practices that  
15          will provide oral health services other than preven-  
16          tive oral health care, including restoration and main-  
17          tenance of oral health, in order to meet the need for  
18          oral health services in the community.

19          “(c) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive  
20 a grant under subsection (a), an entity shall—

21               “(1) be—

22                       “(A) a Federally qualified health center  
23                       (as defined in section 1861(aa) of the Social  
24                       Security Act);

1           “(B) a safety net clinic or a free clinic (as  
2 defined by the Secretary);

3           “(C) a health care clinic that provides  
4 services to Tribal organizations or urban Indian  
5 organizations (as such terms are defined in sec-  
6 tion 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement  
7 Act); or

8           “(D) any other interested public or private  
9 sector health care provider or organization that  
10 the Secretary determines has a demonstrated  
11 history of serving a high number of uninsured  
12 and or low-income individuals or those who lack  
13 ready access to oral health services; and

14           “(2) demonstrate a clear need to expand oral  
15 health care services beyond preventive oral health  
16 care.

17           “(d) ALLOCATION FOR HIRING ORAL HEALTH CARE  
18 SPECIALISTS.—A portion of the funds available under this  
19 section shall be allocated toward hiring oral health care  
20 specialists, such as oral surgeons and endodontists, at en-  
21 tities receiving grants under this section.

22           “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
23 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-  
24 priated such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal  
25 years 2025 through 2028.”.

1 **SEC. 222. DENTAL CLINICS IN SCHOOLS.**

2 Part Q of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
3 (42 U.S.C. 280h et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 399Z-3. DENTAL CLINICS IN SCHOOLS.**

6 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
7 grants to qualified entities for the purpose of funding the  
8 building, operation, or expansion of dental clinics in  
9 schools.

10 “(b) QUALIFIED ENTITIES.—To receive a grant  
11 under this section, a qualified entity shall submit an appli-  
12 cation to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and  
13 containing such information as the Secretary may require.

14 “(c) REQUIREMENTS.—An entity receiving a grant  
15 under this section shall—

16 “(1) provide comprehensive oral health services  
17 at a dental clinic based at a school, including oral  
18 health education, oral screening, fluoride application,  
19 prophylaxis, sealants, and basic restorative services;

20 “(2) develop a coordinated system of care by re-  
21 ferring patients to an available qualified oral health  
22 provider in the community for any required oral  
23 health services not provided in the dental clinic in  
24 the school, including restorative services, to ensure  
25 that all the oral health needs of students are met;  
26 and

1           “(3) maintain clinic hours that extend beyond  
2           school hours.

3           “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For  
4 purposes of carrying out this section, there is authorized  
5 to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for fis-  
6 cal years 2025 through 2028.”.

7 **SEC. 223. EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CARE COORDINA-**  
8 **TION.**

9           Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
10 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
11 the following:

12 **“SEC. 399V-8. EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT CARE COORDINA-**  
13 **TION WITH RESPECT TO DENTAL CARE.**

14           “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a  
15 grant program to facilitate individuals receiving dental  
16 care at facilities other than hospital emergency depart-  
17 ments, under which the Secretary awards grants to eligible  
18 entities to cover costs related to construction and renova-  
19 tion, equipment, staff, outreach and education, and any  
20 other allowable uses, with respect to the entity’s facilities,  
21 as the Secretary determines appropriate.

22           “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive  
23 a grant under this section an entity shall—

24           “(1) be—

1           “(A) a Federally qualified health center  
2           (as defined in paragraph (4) of section  
3           1861(aa) of the Social Security Act) or rural  
4           health clinic (as defined in paragraph (2) of  
5           such section);

6           “(B) a private dental practice; or

7           “(C) any other interested public or private  
8           sector health care provider or organization,  
9           such as a dental school, that the Secretary de-  
10          termines has the capacity to serve in a coordi-  
11          nated, cost-effective manner, a high number of  
12          individuals who lack access to oral health serv-  
13          ices; and

14          “(2) partner with a hospital or urgent care cen-  
15          ter.

16          “(c) ORAL HEALTH EDUCATION FOR PRIMARY CARE  
17          AND ED HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS.—The Secretary  
18          shall allocate a portion of the amounts appropriated under  
19          subsection (e) toward medical education for primary care  
20          and emergency department physicians, nurses, nurse prac-  
21          titioners, and physician assistants to be trained in oral  
22          health.

23          “(d) REPORT.—Not later than January 1, 2028, the  
24          Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the best  
25          practices determined by the program established under

1 this section to address oral health needs of individuals who  
2 go to emergency departments in need of oral health care.

3 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
4 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-  
5 priated such sums as may be necessary for fiscal years  
6 2025 through 2028.”.

7 **SEC. 224. RESEARCH FUNDING.**

8 (a) IN GENERAL.—For the period of fiscal years  
9 2025 through 2027, there is authorized to be appropriated  
10 for the Secretary of Health and Human Services (referred  
11 to in this section as the “Secretary”) such sums as may  
12 be necessary to conduct, in consultation with the heads  
13 of agencies and offices of the Department of Health and  
14 Human Services, including the Director of the Centers for  
15 Disease Control and Prevention, the Director of the Agen-  
16 cy for Healthcare Research and Quality, the Director of  
17 the National Institutes of Health, and the Administrator  
18 of the Health Resources and Services Administration—

19 (1) research on—

20 (A) the prevention of oral disease;

21 (B) oral disease management;

22 (C) evidence-based strategies to prevent  
23 tooth decay;

1 (D) rigorous, multidisciplinary research-  
2 based approaches to overcome disparities in oral  
3 health;

4 (E) perinatal, postnatal, and childhood oral  
5 health issues, including the integration of den-  
6 tal providers in settings where pediatricians  
7 practice;

8 (F) access, quality, and outcomes with re-  
9 spect to oral health services; and

10 (G) other topics as the Secretary deter-  
11 mines appropriate; and

12 (2) an evaluation of oral health service delivery  
13 to underserved and vulnerable populations, including  
14 an evaluation of workforce models to enhance oral  
15 health service delivery.

16 (b) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Funds appro-  
17 priated under this section shall be used to supplement, and  
18 not supplant, other Federal, State, and local public funds  
19 provided for activities described in subsection (a).

20 **SEC. 225. MOBILE AND PORTABLE DENTAL SERVICES.**

21 Subpart X of part D of title III of the Public Health  
22 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256f et seq.), as amended by sec-  
23 tion 221, is further amended by adding at the end the  
24 following:



1 **“SEC. 340G-3. MOBILE AND PORTABLE DENTAL SERVICES.**

2       “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award  
3 grants to Federally qualified health centers (as defined in  
4 paragraph (4) of section 1861(aa) of the Social Security  
5 Act), rural health clinics (as defined in paragraph (2) of  
6 such section), nonprofit dental clinics, and dental schools  
7 to provide mobile and portable, comprehensive dental serv-  
8 ices that provide for the restoration or maintenance of oral  
9 health and function (including dental services provided by  
10 licensed providers through telehealth-enabled collaboration  
11 and supervision) and outreach for dental services to un-  
12 derserved populations.

13       “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible to receive  
14 a grant under this section, an eligible entity shall submit  
15 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such man-  
16 ner, and containing such information as the Secretary may  
17 require, including information to demonstrate that the en-  
18 tity is capable of providing coordinated care and continuity  
19 of care to patients.

20       “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Eligible entities receiving a  
21 grant under this section shall deliver the dental services  
22 described in subsection (a) at locations such as senior cen-  
23 ters, nursing homes, assisted living facilities, schools, li-  
24 censed child care centers that serve eligible individuals  
25 who receive benefits under the State Children’s Health In-  
26 surance Program under title XXI of the Social Security

1 Act or the Medicaid program under title XIX of the Social  
 2 Security Act, and facilities that provide services under the  
 3 Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, In-  
 4 fants, and Children established by section 17 of the Child  
 5 Nutrition Act of 1966 or under the Head Start Act.

6 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To  
 7 carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-  
 8 priated such sums as may be necessary.”.

9 **Subtitle D—Oral Health Services as**  
 10 **an Essential Health Benefit**

11 **SEC. 231. ORAL HEALTH SERVICES AS AN ESSENTIAL**  
 12 **HEALTH BENEFIT.**

13 Section 1302(b) of the Patient Protection and Af-  
 14 fordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 18022(b)) is amended—

15 (1) in paragraph (1)—

16 (A) in subparagraph (J), by striking “oral  
 17 and”; and

18 (B) by adding at the end the following:

19 “(K) Oral health services for children and  
 20 adults.”; and

21 (2) by adding at the end the following:

22 “(6) ORAL HEALTH SERVICES.—For purposes  
 23 of paragraph (1)(K), the term ‘oral health services’  
 24 means services (as defined by the Secretary), that  
 25 are necessary to prevent disease and promote oral

1 health, restore oral structures to health and func-  
2 tion, and treat emergency conditions.”.

3 **TITLE III—DEPARTMENT OF**  
4 **VETERANS AFFAIRS MATTERS**

5 **SEC. 301. REQUIREMENT THAT SECRETARY OF VETERANS**  
6 **AFFAIRS FURNISH DENTAL CARE IN THE**  
7 **SAME MANNER AS ANY OTHER MEDICAL**  
8 **SERVICE.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Title 38, United States Code, is  
10 amended—

11 (1) in section 1701(6)(B), by striking “as de-  
12 scribed in sections 1710 and 1712 of this title”;

13 (2) in section 1710(c), by striking the second  
14 sentence;

15 (3) in section 1712—

16 (A) by striking subsections (a) and (b);

17 (B) by redesignating subsections (c), (d),  
18 and (e) as subsections (a), (b), and (c), respec-  
19 tively; and

20 (C) in subsection (a), as redesignated by  
21 subparagraph (B)—

22 (i) by striking “Dental appliances”  
23 and inserting “The Secretary may furnish  
24 dentures, dental appliances”; and

1 (ii) by striking “to be furnished by the  
2 Secretary under this section may be pro-  
3 cured by the Secretary” and inserting  
4 “under this section and may procure such  
5 appliances”;

6 (4) in section 1712C(h)—

7 (A) by striking “section 1712 of this title”  
8 and inserting “this chapter”; and

9 (B) by striking “outpatient dental services  
10 and treatment, and related dental appliances,  
11 under such section 1712” and inserting “dental  
12 services and appliances under this chapter”;  
13 and

14 (5) by striking section 2062.

15 (b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1525(a) of  
16 such title is amended by striking “medicines under section  
17 1712(d)” and inserting “medicines under section  
18 1712(b)”.

19 (c) CLERICAL AMENDMENTS.—Such title is further  
20 amended—

21 (1) in section 1712, in the heading for such sec-  
22 tion, by striking “**Dental care**” and inserting  
23 “**Appliances**”;

1           (2) in the table of sections at the beginning of  
2           chapter 17, by striking the item relating to section  
3           1712 and inserting the following new item:

“1712. Appliances; drugs and medicines for certain disabled veterans; vaccines.”;

4           and

5           (3) in the table of sections at the beginning of  
6           chapter 20, by striking the item relating to section  
7           2062.

8 **SEC. 302. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON TRAINING AND**  
9                   **EMPLOYMENT OF ALTERNATIVE DENTAL**  
10                   **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR DENTAL**  
11                   **HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR VETERANS IN**  
12                   **RURAL AND OTHER UNDERSERVED COMMU-**  
13                   **NITIES.**

14           (a) **DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The  
15 Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out a demonstra-  
16 tion program to establish programs to train and employ  
17 alternative dental health care providers in order to in-  
18 crease access to dental health care services for veterans  
19 who are entitled to such services from the Department of  
20 Veterans Affairs and reside in rural and other underserved  
21 communities.

22           (b) **TELEHEALTH.**—For purposes of alternative den-  
23 tal health care providers and other dental care providers  
24 who are licensed to provide clinical care, dental services

1 provided under the demonstration program under this sec-  
2 tion may be administered by such providers through tele-  
3 health-enabled collaboration and supervision when appro-  
4 priate and feasible.

5 (c) ALTERNATIVE DENTAL HEALTH CARE PRO-  
6 VIDERS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “alternative  
7 dental health care providers” has the meaning given that  
8 term in section 340G–1(a)(2) of the Public Health Service  
9 Act (42 U.S.C. 256g–1(a)(2)).

10 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
11 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
12 essary to carry out the demonstration program under this  
13 section.

14 **SEC. 303. PROGRAM OF EDUCATION TO PROMOTE DENTAL**  
15 **HEALTH IN VETERANS.**

16 (a) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Vet-  
17 erans Affairs shall carry out a program of education to  
18 promote dental health for veterans who are enrolled in the  
19 system of annual patient enrollment of the Department  
20 of Veterans Affairs established and operated under section  
21 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

22 (b) ELEMENTS.—The program required by sub-  
23 section (a) shall provide education for veterans on the fol-  
24 lowing:

1           (1) The association between dental health and  
2 overall health and well-being.

3           (2) Proper techniques for dental care.

4           (3) Signs and symptoms of commonly occurring  
5 dental conditions.

6           (4) Treatment options for commonly occurring  
7 dental issues.

8           (5) Options for obtaining access to dental care,  
9 including information on eligibility for dental care  
10 through the Department.

11           (6) Available and accessible options for obtain-  
12 ing low or no-cost dental care, including through  
13 dental schools and Federally Qualified Health Cen-  
14 ters.

15           (7) Such other matters relating to dental health  
16 as the Secretary considers appropriate.

17 (c) DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS.—

18           (1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall provide  
19 educational materials to veterans under the program  
20 required by subsection (a) through a variety of  
21 mechanisms, including the following:

22           (A) The availability and distribution of  
23 print materials at facilities of the Department  
24 (including at medical centers, clinics, Vet Cen-  
25 ters, and readjustment counseling centers) and

1 to providers (including members of Patient  
2 Aligned Care Teams).

3 (B) The availability and distribution of  
4 materials over the Internet, including through  
5 webinars, My HealtheVet, and VA.gov.

6 (C) Presentations by the dental program  
7 office of the Department of information, includ-  
8 ing both small group and large group presen-  
9 tations, and distribution of such information to  
10 all locations in which the program is being car-  
11 ried out.

12 (2) SELECTION OF MECHANISMS.—In selecting  
13 mechanisms under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
14 shall select mechanisms designed to maximize the  
15 number of veterans who receive education under the  
16 program.

17 (d) CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be  
18 construed to alter or revise the eligibility of any veteran  
19 for dental care under the laws administered by the Sec-  
20 retary.

21 (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22 (1) FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CEN-  
23 TER.—The term “Federally Qualified Health Cen-  
24 ter” means a Federally-qualified health center as de-





1 the Department for a period of not less than five  
2 years.

3 (b) **MAXIMUM AMOUNT.**—The Secretary may reim-  
4 burse not more than—

5 (1) \$75,000 for each dentist participating in  
6 the program under subsection (a);

7 (2) \$10,000 for each dental hygienist partici-  
8 pating in such program; and

9 (3) \$20,000 for each oral surgeon participating  
10 in such program.

11 (c) **SELECTION OF LOCATIONS.**—The Secretary shall  
12 monitor demand among veterans for dental care and re-  
13 quire participants in the program under subsection (a) to  
14 choose from dental clinics of the Department with the  
15 greatest need for dentists, dental hygienists, or oral sur-  
16 geons, as the case may be, according to facility enrollment  
17 and patient demand.

18 **SEC. 305. EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PARTNERSHIPS**  
19 **FOR DENTISTS, DENTAL HYGIENISTS, AND**  
20 **ORAL SURGEONS.**

21 The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall enter into  
22 educational and training partnerships with dental schools,  
23 including dental programs within a community college, to  
24 provide training and employment opportunities for den-  
25 tists, dental hygienists, and oral surgeons.

1 **TITLE IV—FEDERAL BUREAU OF**  
2 **PRISONS**

3 **SEC. 401. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON TRAINING AND**  
4 **EMPLOYMENT OF ALTERNATIVE DENTAL**  
5 **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR DENTAL**  
6 **HEALTH CARE SERVICES FOR PRISONERS**  
7 **WITHIN THE CUSTODY OF THE BUREAU OF**  
8 **PRISONS.**

9 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The  
10 Attorney General, acting through the Director of the Bu-  
11 reau of Prisons, may carry out a demonstration program  
12 to establish programs to train and employ alternative den-  
13 tal health care providers in order to increase access to den-  
14 tal health services for prisoners within the custody of the  
15 Bureau of Prisons.

16 (b) TELEHEALTH.—For purposes of alternative den-  
17 tal health care providers and any other dental care pro-  
18 viders who are licensed to provide clinical care, dental  
19 services provided under the demonstration program under  
20 this section may be administered by such providers  
21 through telehealth-enabled collaboration and supervision  
22 when deemed appropriate and feasible.

23 (c) ALTERNATIVE DENTAL HEALTH CARE PRO-  
24 VIDERS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “alternative  
25 dental health care providers” has the meaning given that

1 term in section 340G–1 of the Public Health Service Act  
2 (42 U.S.C. 256g–1).

3 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
4 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
5 essary to carry out the demonstration program under this  
6 section.

## 7 **TITLE V—INDIAN HEALTH** 8 **SERVICE**

### 9 **SEC. 501. DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM ON TRAINING AND** 10 **EMPLOYMENT OF ALTERNATIVE DENTAL** 11 **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS FOR DENTAL** 12 **HEALTH CARE SERVICES UNDER THE INDIAN** 13 **HEALTH SERVICE.**

14 (a) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—The  
15 Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through  
16 the Indian Health Service, may carry out a demonstration  
17 program to establish programs to train and employ alter-  
18 native dental health care providers in order to help elimi-  
19 nate oral health disparities and increase access to dental  
20 services through health programs operated by the Indian  
21 Health Service, Indian tribes, tribal organizations, and  
22 urban Indian organizations (as those terms are defined in  
23 section 4 of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25  
24 U.S.C. 1603)).

1 (b) TELEHEALTH.—For purposes of alternative den-  
 2 tal health care providers and any other dental care pro-  
 3 viders who are licensed to provide clinical care, dental  
 4 services provided under the demonstration program under  
 5 this section may be administered by such providers  
 6 through telehealth-enabled collaboration and supervision  
 7 when deemed appropriate and feasible.

8 (c) ALTERNATIVE DENTAL HEALTH CARE PRO-  
 9 VIDERS DEFINED.—In this section, the term “alternative  
 10 dental health care providers” has the meaning given that  
 11 term in section 340G–1(a)(2) of the Public Health Service  
 12 Act (42 U.S.C. 256g–1(a)(2)).

13 (d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
 14 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are nec-  
 15 essary to carry out the demonstration program under this  
 16 section.

## 17 **TITLE VI—REPORTS TO** 18 **CONGRESS**

### 19 **SEC. 601. REPORTS ON ENROLLMENT IN COVERAGE FOR** 20 **ORAL HEALTH SERVICES.**

21 (a) SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERV-  
 22 ICES.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall  
 23 submit to Congress the following reports:

24 (1) COST-BENEFIT ANALYSIS.—Not later than  
 25 October 1, 2028, a report that provides a com-

1       preprehensive cost-benefit analysis regarding the expansion of coverage for dental services pursuant to this  
2       Act, including whether the provision of such services  
3       resulted in a reduction in total health care costs for  
4       individuals under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.  
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6               (2) ANNUAL REPORT ON ENROLLMENT, UTILIZATION, AND EXPENDITURES IN DENTAL INSURANCE  
7       PLANS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the  
8       enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, an  
9       annual report containing detailed information on—  
10

11               (A) enrollment in private insurance plans  
12       providing pediatric and adult dental coverage,  
13       whether such coverage is provided through a  
14       qualified health plan (as defined in section  
15       1301(a) of the Patient Protection and Affordable  
16       Care Act (Public Law 111–148)) or a  
17       stand-alone dental plan;  
18

19               (B) the utilization of oral health services  
20       by children and adults who receive dental coverage  
21       under a qualified health plan or a stand-alone  
22       dental plan; and

23               (C) expenditures related to oral health  
24       services by individuals and families who receive

1 dental coverage in a qualified health plan or  
2 stand-alone dental plan.

3 (b) COMPTROLLER GENERAL.—

4 (1) MEDICAID AND MEDICARE.—Not later than  
5 January 1, 2028, the Comptroller General of the  
6 United States shall submit to Congress a report that  
7 provides a comprehensive analysis and evaluation of  
8 the implementation and utilization of the expanded  
9 coverage for dental services pursuant to this Act for  
10 individuals enrolled in the Medicare and Medicaid  
11 programs.

12 (2) DEMONSTRATION PROGRAMS.—Not later  
13 than January 1, 2028, the Comptroller General of  
14 the United States shall submit to Congress a report  
15 that provides a comprehensive analysis and evalua-  
16 tion of the demonstration programs described in sec-  
17 tions 302, 401, and 501, including—

18 (A) the extent to which the programs im-  
19 proved access to oral health care and increased  
20 utilization of oral health services; and

21 (B) an examination of the training pro-  
22 vided under the programs to alternative dental  
23 health care providers and the quality of care  
24 provided by such providers.

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