

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2701

To provide grants for the conduct of demonstration projects designed to provide education and training for eligible individuals to enter and follow a career pathway in the field of pregnancy or childbirth, under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 20, 2021

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To provide grants for the conduct of demonstration projects designed to provide education and training for eligible individuals to enter and follow a career pathway in the field of pregnancy or childbirth, under the health profession opportunity grant program under section 2008 of the Social Security Act.

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 “Opportunities to Sup-
5 port Mothers and Deliver Children Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS FOR DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO PRO-**
2 **VIDE CAREER PATHWAYS IN THE FIELD OF**
3 **PREGNANCY OR CHILDBIRTH.**

4 Section 2008 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
5 1397g) is amended by redesignating subsection (d) as sub-
6 section (e) and inserting after subsection (c) the following:

7 “(d) DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS TO PROVIDE CA-
8 REER PATHWAYS IN THE FIELD OF PREGNANCY OR
9 CHILDBIRTH.—

10 “(1) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary, in
11 consultation with the Secretary of Labor and the
12 Secretary of Education, shall award grants in ac-
13 cordance with this subsection to eligible entities to
14 conduct demonstration projects for the purpose of
15 providing education and training for eligible individ-
16 uals to enter and follow a career pathway in the field
17 of pregnancy or childbirth, in a State that recognizes
18 doula or midwives as health care providers and that
19 provides payment for services provided by doula or
20 midwives, as the case may be, under the State plan
21 approved under title XIX.

22 “(2) DURATION.—A demonstration project shall
23 be conducted under this subsection for not less than
24 3 years.

25 “(3) APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS.—An appli-
26 cant seeking a grant under this subsection for a

1 demonstration project shall submit to the Secretary
2 an application for the grant, that includes the fol-
3 lowing:

4 “(A) A description of the partnerships,
5 strategic staff hiring decisions, tailored program
6 activities, or other programmatic elements of
7 the project that are designed to support a
8 strong career pathway in pregnancy, birth, or
9 post-partum services.

10 “(B) A demonstration that the State in
11 which the project is to be conducted recognizes
12 and permits doulas and midwives to practice in
13 the State.

14 “(C) A demonstration that the applicant
15 has experience working with low-income popu-
16 lations, or a description of the plan of the appli-
17 cant to work with a partner that has the experi-
18 ence.

19 “(4) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall, by
20 grant, contract, or interagency agreement, conduct
21 rigorous and well-designed evaluations of the dem-
22 onstration projects for which a grant is made under
23 this section, which shall include identification of suc-
24 cessful activities for creating opportunities for devel-
25 oping and sustaining, particularly with respect to

1 low-income individuals and other entry-level workers,
2 a doula-to-midwife workforce career pathway that
3 has accessible entry points, that meets high stand-
4 ards for education, training, certification, and pro-
5 fessional development, and that provides increased
6 wages and affordable benefits, including health care
7 coverage, that are responsive to the needs of the
8 workforce.

9 “(5) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

10 “(A) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligi-
11 ble entity’ means any of the following entities
12 that demonstrates in an application submitted
13 under this subsection that the entity has the ca-
14 pacity to fully develop and administer the dem-
15 onstration project described in the application:

16 “(i) A local workforce development
17 board established under section 107 of the
18 Workforce Innovation and Opportunity
19 Act.

20 “(ii) A State or territory, a political
21 subdivision of a State or territory, or an
22 agency of a State, territory, or such a po-
23 litical subdivision.

24 “(iii) An Indian tribe, a tribal organi-
25 zation, or a tribal college or university.

1 “(iv) An institution of higher edu-
2 cation (as defined in the Higher Education
3 Act of 1965).

4 “(v) A hospital (as defined in section
5 1861(e)).

6 “(vi) A skilled nursing facility (as de-
7 fined in section 1819(h)(1)(A)).

8 “(vii) A Federally qualified health
9 center (as defined in section 1861(aa)(4)).

10 “(viii) A nonprofit organization de-
11 scribed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal
12 Revenue Code of 1986, a labor organiza-
13 tion, or an entity with shared labor-man-
14 agement oversight, that has a dem-
15 onstrated history of providing health pro-
16 fession training to eligible individuals.

17 “(ix) An entity recognized by a State,
18 Indian tribe, or tribal organization as
19 qualified to train doulas or midwives, if
20 midwives or doulas, as the case may be,
21 are permitted to practice medicine in the
22 State involved.

23 “(x) An opioid treatment program (as
24 defined in section 1861(iii)(2)).

1 “(B) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term
2 ‘eligible individual’ means an individual whose
3 income does not exceed 138 percent of the Fed-
4 eral poverty level.

5 “(C) MIDWIFE.—The term ‘midwife’
6 means a certified midwife, certified professional
7 midwife, licensed midwife, and tribally-recog-
8 nized midwife.

9 “(D) CERTIFIED MIDWIFE.—The term
10 ‘certified midwife’ means an individual who is
11 certified by the American Midwifery Certifi-
12 cation Board to practice midwifery.

13 “(E) CERTIFIED PROFESSIONAL MID-
14 WIFE.—The term ‘certified professional mid-
15 wife’ means an individual who—

16 “(i) is certified by the North Amer-
17 ican Registry of Midwives to practice mid-
18 wifery for normal, low-risk pregnancies and
19 childbirths; and

20 “(ii) has completed—

21 “(I) a midwifery education pro-
22 gram accredited by the Midwifery
23 Education and Accreditation Council
24 or any other entity recognized by the
25 Department of Education; or

1 “(II) the requirements to obtain
 2 a Midwifery Bridge Certificate from
 3 the North American Registry of Mid-
 4 wives, and maintains the certification
 5 by completing any required continuing
 6 education for the certification.

7 “(F) LICENSED MIDWIFE.—The term ‘li-
 8 censed midwife’ means, with respect to a State,
 9 an individual who is licensed under State law to
 10 practice midwifery.

11 “(G) TRIBALLY-RECOGNIZED MIDWIFE.—
 12 The term ‘tribally-recognized midwife’ means
 13 an individual who is recognized by an Indian
 14 tribe (as defined in section 4 of the Indian
 15 Health Care Improvement Act) to practice mid-
 16 wifery for the tribe.

17 “(6) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any funds in the
 18 Treasury of the United States not otherwise appro-
 19 priated, there are appropriated to the Secretary to
 20 carry out this subsection \$10,000,000 for fiscal year
 21 2022.”.

22 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

23 The amendment made by this Act shall take effect
 24 on October 1, 2021.

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