

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 771

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide funding for State strike teams for resident and employee safety in skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 3, 2021

Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. CROW, and Mrs. MURPHY of Florida) 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 provide funding for State strike teams for resident and employee safety in skilled nursing facilities and nursing facilities.

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 “Sending Outside Sup-
5 port Act of 2021” or the “SOS Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. FUNDING FOR STATE STRIKE TEAMS FOR RESI-**
2 **DENT AND EMPLOYEE SAFETY IN SKILLED**
3 **NURSING FACILITIES AND NURSING FACILI-**
4 **TIES.**

5 (a) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts made available
6 under subsection (c), the Secretary of Health and Human
7 Services (referred to in this section as the “Secretary”)
8 shall allocate such amounts among the States, in a man-
9 ner that takes into account the percentage of skilled nurs-
10 ing facilities and nursing facilities in each State that have
11 residents or employees who have been diagnosed with
12 COVID–19, for purposes of establishing and implementing
13 strike teams in accordance with subsection (b).

14 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—A State that receives funds
15 under this section shall use such funds to establish and
16 implement a strike team that will be deployed to a skilled
17 nursing facility or nursing facility in the State with diag-
18 nosed or suspected cases of COVID–19 among residents
19 or staff for the purposes of assisting with clinical care,
20 infection control, or staffing.

21 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For pur-
22 poses of carrying out this section, there is authorized to
23 be appropriated \$500,000,000.

24 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

25 (1) NURSING FACILITY.—The term “nursing
26 facility” has the meaning given such term in section

1 1919(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
2 1396r(a)).

3 (2) SKILLED NURSING FACILITY.—The term
4 “skilled nursing facility” has the meaning given such
5 term in section 1819(a) of the Social Security Act
6 (42 U.S.C. 1395i–3(a)).

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