117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION
H. R. 4970

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to encourage the development and expansion of approved medical residency training programs in rural areas.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 6, 2021

Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. KIND) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a grant program to encourage the development and expansion of approved medical residency training programs in rural areas.

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 "Rural Medical Resi-

5 dency Expansion Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. GRANT PROGRAM TO ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOP-MENT AND EXPANSION OF APPROVED MEDICAL RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS IN RURAL AREAS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Health and Human Services (in this section referred to as the "Secretary") shall establish a program to be known as the Rural Medical Residency Expansion Grant Program (in this section referred to as the "Program") for purposes of awarding grants during the 10-year period beginning on such date to qualifying hospitals and entities (as defined in subsection (d)) to facilitate the development or expansion of approved medical residency training programs (as defined for purposes of section 1886(h) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(h))).

(b) APPLICATION.—The Secretary may award grants under the Program only to a qualifying hospital that submits to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as may be specified by the Secretary. Such award shall be in an amount determined appropriate by the Secretary.

(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Funds made available to a qualifying hospital pursuant to a grant awarded under the Program may only be used by such hospital to—

1   (1) develop an approved medical residency

2   training program; or

3   (2) expand an existing such program.

4 (d) QUALIFYING HOSPITAL AND ENTITY DE-

5 FINED.—For purposes of this section, the term "quali-

6 fying hospital and entity" means—

7   (1) a hospital (as defined in section 1861 of the

8   Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1395x));

9   (2) a critical access hospital (as so defined);

10   (3) a sole community hospital (as defined in

11   section 1886(d)(5)(D)(iii) of such Act (42 U.S.C.

12   1395ww(d)(5)(D)(iii)));

13   (4) a rural emergency hospital (as defined in

14   section 1861(kkk)(2) of such Act (42 U.S.C.

15   1395x(kkk)(2))); or

16   (5) an entity eligible for the Rural Residency

17   Planning and Development Program administered

18   by the Health Resources & Services Administration

19   of the Department of Health and Human Services.

20 (e) REPORTING.—

21   (1) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year

22   after the date specified in subsection (a), the Sec-

23   retary of Health and Human Services shall submit

24   to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the

25   House of Representatives and the Committee on

1 Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Sen-
2 ate on how many qualifying hospitals and entities re-
3 ceived funding under the Program and how many
4 new residents were trained as a result of the Pro-
5 gram.

6   (2) SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.—The Secretary of
7 Health and Human Services shall submit to such
8 Committees a report that identifies the practices of
9 residents participating in the Program (including
10 whether such residents are practicing in a rural
11 area) 5 and 10 years after the report is submitted
12 pursuant to paragraph (1).

13 (f) FUNDING.—There are authorized to be appro-
14 priated $100,000,000 for the 10-year period beginning
15 with the first calendar year in which the Program is estab-
16 lished for purposes of carrying out this section.

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