

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5993

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to establish a competitive grant program under which the Secretary will award grants to certain institutions to establish American Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Worker Training Centers of Excellence, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

NOVEMBER 17, 2021

Mr. BUTTERFIELD 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, acting through the Commissioner of Food and Drugs, to establish a competitive grant program under which the Secretary will award grants to certain institutions to establish American Biopharmaceutical Manufacturing Worker Training Centers of Excellence, and for other purposes.

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 “Making Essential
5 Drugs in America Act” or the “MEDS in America Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. AMERICAN BIOPHARMACEUTICAL MANUFAC-**
2 **TURING WORKER TRAINING CENTERS OF EX-**
3 **CELLENCE.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and
5 Human Services, acting through the Commissioner of
6 Food and Drugs, shall establish a competitive grant pro-
7 gram under which the Secretary will award not more than
8 20 grants to eligible institutions to establish centers of ex-
9 cellence with respect to recruitment and training of bio-
10 pharmaceutical manufacturing workers in the United
11 States, to be known as “American Biopharmaceutical
12 Manufacturing Worker Training Centers of Excellence”
13 (referred to in this section as “Centers of Excellence”).

14 (b) GRANTS.—

15 (1) AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under
16 subsection (a) shall not exceed \$1,000,000 per year.

17 (2) DURATION.—The term of a grant under
18 this section shall not exceed 5 years.

19 (3) APPLICATION.—An eligible institution seek-
20 ing a grant under this section shall submit to the
21 Secretary an application at such time and in such
22 manner as the Secretary may require that con-
23 tains—

24 (A) an outline of the institution’s plans to
25 recruit and train workers who would be pro-
26 ficient in United States biopharmaceutical man-

1 ufacturing, including continuous manufac-
2 turing, vaccine manufacturing, and working as
3 sterile operators; and

4 (B) such other information as the Sec-
5 retary may require.

6 (c) ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this sec-
7 tion, the term “eligible institution” means an institution
8 of higher education (as defined in section 101 of the High-
9 er Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001), or an entity
10 that carries out an apprenticeship registered under the
11 Act of August 16, 1937 (commonly known as the “Na-
12 tional Apprenticeship Act”; 50 Stat. 664, chapter 663; 29
13 U.S.C. 50 et seq.), which has an established memorandum
14 of understanding with one or more biopharmaceutical
15 manufacturers.

16 (d) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may
17 provide technical assistance to an eligible institution seek-
18 ing to establish a Center of Excellence, including technical
19 assistance provided through an advisory committee of the
20 Food and Drug Administration.

21 (e) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
22 on which the first grant is awarded under this section,
23 the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit
24 to Congress a report that—

1 (1) assesses the effectiveness of the program es-
2 tablished under this section; and

3 (2) makes recommendations with respect to ad-
4 ditional measures that may be needed to support
5 worker training for biopharmaceutical manufac-
6 turing jobs in the United States.

7 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 (1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
9 appropriated to carry out this section \$100,000,000
10 for the period of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.

11 (2) RESERVATION OF FUNDS FOR HISTORI-
12 CALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES AND
13 OTHER MINORITY-SERVING INSTITUTIONS.—Of the
14 amounts made available under paragraph (1) for a
15 fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not less than
16 20 percent for grants to institutions that are institu-
17 tions of higher education eligible to receive funds
18 under section 371(a) of the Higher Education Act of
19 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1067q(a)).

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