117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 3890

To amend the Public Health Service Act to address physician assistant
training needs, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JUNE 15, 2021

Ms. BASS introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to address physician
assistant training needs, 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 "Physician Assistant

5 Education Public Health Initiatives Act of 2021".

6 **SEC. 2. EXPANDING CLINICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES.**

7   The Public Health Service Act is amended by insert-

8 ing after section 749A of such Act (42 U.S.C. 293l–1)

9 the following:

1 **"SEC. 749A–1. EXPANDING CLINICAL TRAINING OPPORTUNI-**

2 **TIES.**

3 "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through

4 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services

5 Administration, shall award grants to physician assistant

6 education programs to establish or expand clinical edu-

7 cation and training for physician assistants at underserved

8 sites including Federally qualified health centers, critical

9 access hospitals, and rural health clinics.

10 "(b) ALLOCATION FOR RURAL SITES.—Of the

11 amount made available to carry out this section for a fiscal

12 year, the Secretary shall allocate 50 percent of such

13 amount for clinical education and training at underserved

14 sites that are located in rural areas.

15 "(c) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this sec-

16 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to physician assist-

17 ant education programs proposing to establish or expand

18 clinical rotations for physician assistants in pediatrics,

19 women's health, or behavioral health.

20 "(d) REPORTING TO CONGRESS.—The Secretary

21 shall—

22 "(1) not later than March 1, 2024, submit an

23 interim report to the Congress on the implementa-

24 tion of this section; and

25 "(2) not later than March 1, 2027, submit a

26 final report to the Congress on such implementation.

3

1 ''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
2 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
3 priated $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through
4 2026.''.

SEC. 3. PROMOTING TELEHEALTH EDUCATION FOR PHYSI-
CIAN ASSISTANT STUDENTS.

7 The Public Health Service Act is amended by insert-
8 ing after section 749A–1 of such Act, as added by section
9 2, the following:

''SEC. 749A–2. PROMOTING TELEHEALTH EDUCATION FOR
PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT STUDENTS.

12 ''(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
13 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services
14 Administration, shall award grants to physician assistant
15 education programs to develop and implement telehealth
16 curricula for students who are enrolled at such programs.

17 ''(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Recipients of grants under
18 this section shall use the grants to develop and implement
19 curricula that improve student knowledge on telehealth de-
20 livery, including—

21   ''(1) effective patient communication principles;
22   ''(2) legal requirements pertaining to privacy
23   and security;
24   ''(3) social, cultural, physical, and linguistic
25   barriers to the use of telehealth services; and

1   "(4) patient safety and criteria for care esca-
2 lation during a telehealth encounter.

3   "(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To
4 carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-
5 priated $3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through
6 2026.".

7 **SEC. 4. RESEARCH TO ENHANCE PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT**
8   **EDUCATION.**

9   The Public Health Service Act is amended by insert-
10 ing after section 749A–2 of such Act, as added by section
11 3, the following:

12 **"SEC. 749A–3. RESEARCH TO ENHANCE PHYSICIAN ASSIST-**
13   **ANT EDUCATION.**

14   "(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, acting through
15 the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services
16 Administration, shall award grants to eligible entities to
17 fund research on physician assistant education enhance-
18 ment and innovation.

19   "(b) USE OF FUNDS.—Recipients of grants under
20 this section shall use the grants to fund research on physi-
21 cian assistant education enhancement and innovation, in-
22 cluding—

23   "(1) the use of simulation to mitigate clinical
24   training site shortages;

1 ''(2) barriers to integrating physician assistant

2 students into the delivery of telehealth services; or

3 ''(3) recruitment and retention strategies for

4 faculty and students underrepresented in physician

5 assistant education programs and the physician as-

6 sistant profession.

7 ''(c) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Recipients of grants

8 under this section shall provide to the Secretary with re-

9 spect to each year covered by the grant a report on the

10 activities conducted using such funds, including—

11 ''(1) the number of researchers supported dur-

12 ing such year by such recipient using such funds;

13 ''(2) a list of the researchers counted under

14 paragraph (1), organized by researcher, including—

15 ''(A) the research topic of each such re-

16 searcher; and

17 ''(B) citations to published clinical and sci-

18 entific research by each such researcher that is

19 attributable to support under this section;

20 ''(3) an evaluation of the benefits of grants

21 under this section; and

22 ''(4) any other information the Secretary may

23 request.

24 ''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

1   "(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible en-

2   tity' means an organization that has demonstrated

3   expertise in physician assistant education and is—

4   "(A) a nonprofit organization; or

5   "(B) an institution of higher education.

6   "(2) PHYSICIAN ASSISTANT EDUCATION.—The

7   term 'physician assistant education' means selecting,

8   educating, and graduating students in accredited

9   graduate physician assistant education programs.

10   "(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To

11   carry out this section, there is authorized to be appro-

12   priated $2,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through

13   2026.".

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