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(Original Signature of Member)

118TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

**H. R.** \_\_\_\_\_

To amend the Public Health Service Act to address the shortage of medical laboratory personnel, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. Ross introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee  
on \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To amend the Public Health Service Act to address the shortage of medical laboratory personnel, 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 “Medical Laboratory  
5 Personnel Shortage Relief Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCLUDING MEDICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL**  
2 **AND SERVICES IN NATIONAL HEALTH SERV-**  
3 **ICE CORPS PROGRAMS.**

4 (a) DEFINITION.—Section 331(a) of the Public  
5 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(a)) is amended—

6 (1) in paragraph (3)(D), by striking “or mental  
7 health” and inserting “mental health, or medical  
8 laboratory services”; and

9 (2) by adding at the end the following:

10 “(F) The term ‘medical laboratory personnel’—

11 “(i) means individuals—

12 “(I) seeking or receiving training in  
13 an accredited medical laboratory science  
14 program; or

15 “(II) employed in a position in which  
16 the individual examines materials derived  
17 from the human body for the purpose of  
18 providing information for the diagnosis,  
19 prevention, or treatment of a disease or  
20 impairment of human beings; and

21 “(ii) includes phlebotomists, medical lab-  
22 oratory assistants, histotechnologists, laboratory  
23 scientists, laboratory technicians, and genetic  
24 counselors.”.

25 (b) MEDICAL LABORATORY HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  
26 TARGET AREAS.—Section 332 of the Public Health Serv-

1 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 254e) is amended by adding at the  
2 end the following:

3 “(l) MEDICAL LABORATORY HEALTH PROFESSIONAL  
4 TARGET AREAS.—

5 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry  
6 out a program of—

7 “(A) identifying medical laboratory health  
8 professional target areas; and

9 “(B) assigning members of the Corps who  
10 are medical laboratory personnel to such areas.

11 “(2) APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.—The provisions  
12 of paragraphs (1), (2), (3), (4), and (6) of sub-  
13 section (k) shall apply to the identification of med-  
14 ical laboratory health professional target areas and  
15 the assignment of medical laboratory personnel  
16 under this subsection except that—

17 “(A) references to maternity care health  
18 professional target areas shall be treated as ref-  
19 erences to medical laboratory health profes-  
20 sional target areas; and

21 “(B) references to maternity care health  
22 professionals and maternity care shall be treat-  
23 ed as references to medical laboratory personnel  
24 and medical laboratory services, respectively.”.

1 (c) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.—Section 338B of  
2 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l–1) is  
3 amended—

4 (1) in subsection (a)(1), by inserting “medical  
5 laboratory personnel,” after “dentists,”; and

6 (2) in subsection (b)—

7 (A) by striking “an individual must—”  
8 and all that follows through “or physician as-  
9 sistant;” and inserting the following: “an indi-  
10 vidual must—

11 “(1)(A)(i) have a degree in medicine, osteo-  
12 pathic medicine, dentistry, or another health profes-  
13 sion, or an appropriate degree from a graduate pro-  
14 gram of behavioral and mental health;

15 “(ii) be certified as a nurse midwife, nurse  
16 practitioner, or physician assistant; or

17 “(iii) have a degree in medical laboratory  
18 science;”;

19 (B) in paragraph (1)(B), by inserting  
20 “medical laboratory science,” after “mental  
21 health,”; and

22 (C) in paragraph (1)(C)(ii), by inserting  
23 “medical laboratory science,” after “dentistry,”.

1 **SEC. 3. MEDICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL EDUCATION**  
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 The Public Health Service Act is amended by insert-  
4 ing after section 778 (42 U.S.C. 295f-3) the following:

5 **“SEC. 779. MEDICAL LABORATORY PERSONNEL EDUCATION**  
6 **PROGRAM.**

7 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants  
8 to, or enter into contracts with, eligible entities that the  
9 Secretary has determined are capable of carrying out such  
10 grant or contract—

11 “(1) to plan, develop, operate, or participate in  
12 an accredited medical laboratory professional edu-  
13 cation program that awards an associate’s, bach-  
14 elor’s, or graduate degree or certificate; and

15 “(2) to recruit, train, and develop faculty for  
16 such program.

17 “(b) PRIORITIES IN MAKING AWARDS.—In awarding  
18 grants and contracts under paragraph (1), the Secretary  
19 shall give priority to eligible entities that—

20 “(1) utilize innovative approaches to clinical  
21 teaching;

22 “(2) are committed to training individuals from  
23 rural, underrepresented, or disadvantaged back-  
24 grounds;

25 “(3) teach collaboration among health profes-  
26 sionals; or

1           “(4) provide training in cultural competency  
2           and health literacy.

3           “(c) DURATION OF AWARDS.—A grant or contract  
4           awarded under this subsection shall be for a period of 3  
5           years.

6           “(d) ELIGIBLE ENTITY DEFINED.—In this section,  
7           the term ‘eligible entity’ means an accredited nonprofit  
8           hospital, school of allied health, or nonprofit entity that  
9           sponsors accredited internship programs required for pro-  
10          fessional certification.

11          “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
12          is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

13                 “(1) \$25,000,000 for the first full fiscal year  
14                 beginning after the date of enactment of this Act;  
15                 and

16                 “(2) such sums as may be necessary for subse-  
17                 quent fiscal years.”.