

[118H9849]

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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

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

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 2025”.

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.”.