

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. R. 4799

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategic plan to retrain displaced workers to become health care professionals serving areas with a shortage of such professionals, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 9, 2010

Mr. SPACE 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 to develop a strategic plan to retrain displaced workers to become health care professionals serving areas with a shortage of such professionals, 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 “Retraining a New
5 Health Care Workforce Act of 2010”.

6 **SEC. 2. STRATEGIC PLAN.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 9 months after the
8 date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in con-

1 sultation with other relevant Federal departments and
2 agencies, shall develop and submit to the Congress a stra-
3 tegic plan to retrain displaced workers to become health
4 care professionals serving areas with a shortage of the
5 type professionals involved.

6 (b) PLAN.—The strategic plan under subsection (a)
7 shall include—

8 (1) an overview of national shortages in health
9 care professions;

10 (2) an assessment of how existing Federal
11 health care workforce programs may be used for the
12 purpose of retraining displaced workers to become
13 health care professionals serving areas with a short-
14 age of the type professionals involved; and

15 (3) recommendations for legislative and admin-
16 istrative changes for making such programs more ef-
17 fective in achieving such purpose.

18 **SEC. 3. ASSISTING DISPLACED WORKERS TO BECOME**
19 **STATE-LICENSED OR CERTIFIED HEALTH**
20 **CARE PROFESSIONALS.**

21 (a) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a pro-
22 gram consisting of awarding grants to States to assist dis-
23 placed workers to become State-licensed or certified health
24 care professionals serving areas with a shortage of the
25 type professionals involved.

1 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received as a grant
2 under this section may be used only to assist displaced
3 workers to become State-licensed or certified health care
4 professionals described in subsection (a). Such assist-
5 ance—

6 (1) shall include training; and

7 (2) may include—

8 (A) reimbursement for costs associated
9 with—

10 (i) training; or

11 (ii) applying for licensure or certifi-
12 cation; or

13 (B) expediting the licensing or certification
14 process.

15 (c) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under
16 this section, a State shall demonstrate to the Secretary's
17 satisfaction that the State has—

18 (1) an unemployment rate that is greater than
19 the national average;

20 (2) a significant quantity of displaced workers;
21 and

22 (3) a shortage of each type of health care pro-
23 fessional to be trained through the grant.

24 (d) RELATION TO STRATEGIC PLAN.—In carrying
25 out this section, the Secretary—

1 (1) shall take into consideration the strategic
2 plan developed under section 2; and

3 (2) may not award any grant under this section
4 before such plan has been submitted to the Con-
5 gress.

6 (e) REPORT.—The Secretary shall submit to the Con-
7 gress an annual report on the program under this section.

8 (f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
9 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
10 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years
11 2011 through 2015.

12 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

13 In this Act:

14 (1) The term “Secretary” means the Secretary
15 of Health and Human Services.

16 (2) The term “State” has the meaning given to
17 such term in section 2 of the Public Health Service
18 Act (42 U.S.C. 201).

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