

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 5981

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the provision of medical services to aliens present in the United States.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

SEPTEMBER 9, 2016

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

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the provision of medical services to aliens present in the United States.

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 “Mobile Medical Immi-
5 grant Health Improvement Act of 2016”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

8 (1) As of 2014, there were 42,200,000 aliens
9 present in the United States, accounting for 13 per-
10 cent of the total population (Kaiser, January 2016).

1 (2) Among the nonelderly population, nearly a
2 quarter (23 percent) of aliens lawfully present in the
3 United States and four in ten (40 percent) of un-
4 documented aliens present in the United States do
5 not have health insurance (Kaiser, January 2016).

6 (3) Mobile medical health care services can ef-
7 fectively reach aliens present in the United States
8 and provide primary care, screenings, dental care,
9 medications, behavioral health care, immunizations,
10 lab tests, case management, benefits assistance and
11 assessments, and triage.

12 (4) Mobile medical health care services can pro-
13 vide health care to aliens present in the United
14 States in urban, rural, and suburban areas.

15 (5) The average cost of a visit to a provider of
16 mobile medical health care services is significantly
17 below the average cost of an emergency department
18 visit. Visiting a mobile medical health care service
19 instead of the emergency department can result in
20 a cost savings of more than \$800 per visit.

21 **SEC. 3. IMPROVING ACCESS OF ALIENS PRESENT IN THE**
22 **UNITED STATES TO MEDICAL SERVICES.**

23 Subpart I of part D of title III of the Public Health
24 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) is amended by adding
25 at the end the following new section:

1 **“SEC. 330M. PARTNERSHIPS TO IMPROVE ACCESS OF**
2 **ALIENS PRESENT IN THE UNITED STATES TO**
3 **MEDICAL SERVICES.**

4 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award
5 grants, contracts, or cooperative agreements to eligible en-
6 tities described in subsection (b) to enable such entities
7 to improve access of aliens present in the United States
8 to mobile medical health care services.

9 “(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—To be eligible for a grant,
10 contract, or agreement under this section an entity shall—

11 “(1) be a partnership consisting of—

12 “(A) one or more hospitals; and

13 “(B) one or more other local health care
14 facilities, including clinics, health centers, pri-
15 mary care facilities, mental health centers,
16 pharmacies, or other mobile medical assets (as
17 such term is defined for purposes of section
18 319C-2), whether or not such a local health
19 care facility is owned (either in whole or in
20 part) by a partnering hospital described in sub-
21 paragraph (A); and

22 “(2) submit to the Secretary, an application at
23 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
24 formation as the Secretary may require.

25 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—A grant, contract, or agree-
26 ment awarded under this section may be expended only

1 for activities to increase access of aliens present in the
2 United States to mobile medical services, including pri-
3 mary health services (as defined in section 330(b)(1)),
4 substance abuse services (as defined in section 330(h)(5)),
5 and mental health counseling.

6 “(d) LIMITATION ON AWARDS.—A hospital or health
7 care facility shall not be eligible for a grant, contract, or
8 agreement under this section with respect to more than
9 one partnership described in subsection (b)(1).

10 “(e) PREFERENCE.—In awarding a grant, contract,
11 or agreement under this section, the Secretary shall give
12 priority to any application from a geographic area that
13 has a comparatively high ratio of individuals who are
14 aliens to individuals who are citizens or nationals of the
15 United States.

16 “(f) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT REQUIREMENT.—
17 A grant, contract, or agreement awarded under this sec-
18 tion shall be expended to supplement, and not supplant,
19 the expenditures of the eligible entity involved and the
20 value of in-kind contributions for the delivery of services
21 to aliens present in the United States.

22 “(g) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

23 “(1) ALIEN.—The term ‘alien’ has the meaning
24 given to such term in section 101(a)(3) of the Immi-
25 gration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(3)).

1 “(2) MOBILE MEDICAL HEALTH CARE SERV-
2 ICES.—The term ‘mobile medical health care service’
3 means any health care related service provided in a
4 moveable vehicle or a non-permanent clinic.”.

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