

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 916

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine and public health.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 9, 2009

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. TOWNS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide grants for the training of graduate medical residents in preventive medicine and public health.

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 “Preventive Medicine  
5 and Public Health Training Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress makes the following findings:

8 (1) The American Board of Preventive medicine  
9 defines preventive medicine as “that specialty of

1 medical practice which focuses on the health of indi-  
2 viduals and defined populations in order to protect,  
3 promote and maintain health and well-being and  
4 prevent disease, disability and premature death”.

5 (2) Specialists in preventive medicines are  
6 uniquely trained in both clinical medicine and public  
7 health. They have the skills needed to understand  
8 and reduce the risks of disease, disability and death  
9 in individuals and in population groups.

10 (3) Preventive medicine includes both clinical  
11 and non-clinical aspects. Clinicians see patients on a  
12 daily basis and provide services in screening, health  
13 counseling, and immunization to diabetics, cardiac  
14 patients, and others who can benefit from prevention  
15 and lifestyle modification. Non-clinical preventive  
16 medicine includes health policy, social and behavioral  
17 aspects of health and disease, epidemiology, or other  
18 areas in which populations, not individual patients,  
19 are the primary focus. Many preventive medicine  
20 physicians practice both clinical and non-clinical  
21 medicine.

22 (4) Of the 24 medical specialties recognized by  
23 the American Board of Medical Specialties, preven-  
24 tive medicine is the only specialty that requires  
25 training in both clinical medicine and public health.

1           (5) While preventive medicine doctors are em-  
2           ployed in all health sectors, they often serve in lead  
3           roles within the public health force, working in State  
4           and local health departments, as well as Federal  
5           Government agencies, such as the Centers for Dis-  
6           ease Control and Prevention and the National Insti-  
7           tutes of Health.

8           (6) In the workplace, preventive medicine doc-  
9           tors in occupational medicine parallel the general  
10          public health system in dealing with illnesses and in-  
11          juries in workplace populations through worker pro-  
12          tection, personal health promotion, hazard control,  
13          business continuity and effective medical manage-  
14          ment.

15          (7) There is an extreme shortage of doctors in  
16          the public health field. For example, only 23 percent  
17          of local health agencies are directed by physicians  
18          and 8 percent are directed by physicians who have  
19          masters of public health degrees or are fellows in the  
20          American College of Preventive Medicine.

21          (8) Many of these physicians are nearing retire-  
22          ment, and the average age of public health doctors  
23          today is 58 years.

24          (9) The Health Resources and Services Admin-  
25          istration reports that the demand for public health

1 professionals will grow at twice the rate of all occu-  
2 pations between 2000 and 2010.

3 (10) In addition, as the body of evidence sup-  
4 porting the effectiveness of clinical and population-  
5 based interventions to prevent and control diseases  
6 continues to expand, so does the need for specialists  
7 trained in preventive medicine.

8 (11) The Health Resources and Services Ad-  
9 ministration reported that in 2000, there were 7,011  
10 preventive medicine specialists. This was a decrease  
11 from 7,734 in 1970.

12 (12) The number of preventive medicine resi-  
13 dency programs has decreased from 90 in 1998–  
14 1999 to 76 programs today. Over this same period,  
15 the number of preventive medicine residents declined  
16 from 420 to 364.

17 (13) In 2000, less than 3 percent of all medical  
18 school faculty also held masters degrees in public  
19 health. An even smaller number had completed pre-  
20 ventive medicine training or were board certified in  
21 preventive medicine.

22 (14) Preventive medicine trained physicians are  
23 an essential part of the public health workforce and  
24 are critical to the Nation's ability to protect its citi-

1 zens from biological threats, including avian influ-  
2 enza and emerging threats from bioterrorism.

3 **SEC. 3. PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH**  
4 **TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.**

5 Part D of title III of the Public Health Service Act  
6 (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
7 the following:

8 **“Subpart XI—Preventive Medicine Training**

9 **“SEC. 340H. PREVENTIVE MEDICINE AND PUBLIC HEALTH**  
10 **TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM.**

11 “(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary, acting through the  
12 Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Preven-  
13 tion, may award grants to, or enter into contracts with,  
14 eligible entities to provide training to graduate medical  
15 residents in preventive medicine specialties.

16 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
17 or contract under subsection (a), an entity shall—

18 “(1) be a school of public health, public health  
19 department, school of medicine or osteopathic medi-  
20 cine, public or private hospital, or public or private  
21 nonprofit entity;

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; and

1           “(3) maintain and adhere to a letter of agree-  
2           ment with a local community health center (if avail-  
3           able in the local area involved) that supports  
4           practicum training of preventive medicine residents,  
5           if practicable.

6           “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—Amounts received under a  
7           grant or contract under this section shall be used to—

8           “(1) plan, develop, and operate residency pro-  
9           grams for preventive medicine or public health;

10           “(2) provide financial assistance, including tui-  
11           tion and stipends, to resident physicians (MD or  
12           DO) who plan to specialize in preventive medicine or  
13           public health;

14           “(3) defray the costs associated with the plan-  
15           ning, development, and operation of preventive medi-  
16           cine or public health programs, including the devel-  
17           opment of curriculum to be used in such programs,  
18           and the costs of practicum experiences; and

19           “(4) provide for the improvement of academic  
20           administrative units.

21           “(d) DURATION OF AWARD.—A grant or contract  
22           under this section shall be for a term of not to exceed  
23           5 years.

24           “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
25           are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,

- 1 \$43,000,000 for fiscal year 2010, and such sums as may
- 2 be necessary for each succeeding fiscal year.”.

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