

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3022

To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow Indian Health Service scholarship and loan recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 4, 2023

Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Mr. MULLIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs

A BILL

To amend the Indian Health Care Improvement Act to allow Indian Health Service scholarship and loan recipients to fulfill service obligations through half-time clinical practice, 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 “IHS Workforce Parity
5 Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN**
2 **RECIPIENTS.**

3 (a) INDIAN HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLAR-
4 SHIPS.—Section 104(b)(3) of the Indian Health Care Im-
5 provement Act (25 U.S.C. 1613a(b)(3)) is amended by
6 striking the paragraph designation and all that follows
7 through the end of subparagraph (A) and inserting the
8 following:

9 “(3)(A) The active duty service obligation under a
10 written contract with the Secretary under section 338A
11 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l) that
12 an individual has entered into under that section shall,
13 if that individual is a recipient of an Indian Health Schol-
14 arship—

15 “(i) be met by full-time (as defined in section
16 331(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
17 254d(j))) practice—

18 “(I) in the Service;

19 “(II) in a program conducted under a con-
20 tract entered into under the Indian Self-Deter-
21 mination and Education Assistance Act (25
22 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.);

23 “(III) in a program assisted under title V;

24 or

25 “(IV) in the private practice of the applica-
26 ble profession if, as determined by the Sec-

1 retary, in accordance with guidelines issued by
2 the Secretary, the practice—

3 “(aa) is situated in a physician or
4 other health professional shortage area;
5 and

6 “(bb) addresses the health care needs
7 of a substantial number of Indians; or

8 “(ii) be met by half-time (as defined in section
9 331(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
10 254d(j))) practice in a program described in any of
11 subclauses (I) through (IV) of clause (i) if the indi-
12 vidual agrees, in writing—

13 “(I) to double the period of obligated serv-
14 vice that would otherwise be required; or

15 “(II) accept a minimum service obligation
16 of 2 years with an award amount equal to 50
17 percent of the amount that would otherwise be
18 payable for full-time (as so defined) service.”.

19 (b) INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE LOAN REPAYMENT
20 PROGRAM.—Section 108(f)(1)(B) of the Indian Health
21 Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a(f)(1)(B)) is
22 amended by striking clause (iii) and inserting the fol-
23 lowing:

1 “(iii) to serve for a period of time (re-
2 ferred to in this section as the ‘period of
3 obligated service’) equal to—

4 “(I) 2 years, or a longer period
5 of time as the individual may agree to
6 serve, in the full-time (as defined in
7 section 331(j) of the Public Health
8 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(j))) clin-
9 ical practice of the profession of the
10 individual in an Indian health pro-
11 gram to which the individual may be
12 assigned by the Secretary; or

13 “(II)(aa) 4 years, or a longer pe-
14 riod of time as the individual may
15 agree to serve, in the half-time (as de-
16 fined in that section) clinical practice
17 of the profession of the individual in
18 an Indian health program to which
19 the individual may be assigned by the
20 Secretary; or

21 “(bb) not less than 2 years in the
22 half-time (as so defined) clinical prac-
23 tice of the profession of the individual
24 in an Indian health program to which
25 the individual may be assigned by the

1 Secretary with a loan payment
2 amount equal to 50 percent of the
3 amount that would otherwise be pay-
4 able for full-time (as so defined) serv-
5 ice;”.

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