

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2815

To reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 16, 2019

Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. TORRES SMALL of New Mexico, and Mr. DAVID P. ROE of Tennessee) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To reauthorize section 340H of the Public Health Service Act to continue to encourage the expansion, maintenance, and establishment of approved graduate medical residency programs at qualified teaching health centers, 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 “Training the Next
5 Generation of Primary Care Doctors Act of 2019”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds as follows:

3 (1) The program of payments to teaching
4 health centers for graduate medical education under
5 section 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42
6 U.S.C. 256h) was enacted in 2010 and reauthorized
7 in 2015 and 2018 to address the crisis-level shortage
8 of primary care physicians, especially in rural and
9 medically underserved communities.

10 (2) Teaching health center residents and faculty
11 will provide more than 1,000,000 primary care med-
12 ical visits in 2019 to underserved communities.

13 (3) When compared with traditional Medicare
14 GME residents, residents who train at teaching
15 health centers are more likely to practice primary
16 care and remain in underserved or rural commu-
17 nities.

18 (4) The teaching health center program not
19 only plays a vital role in training the Nation's next
20 generation of primary care physicians (including
21 dentists), but helps bridge the Nation's physician
22 shortfall and address the maldistribution of physi-
23 cians across the United States.

24 (5) For these reasons, it is of vital importance
25 to continue the program under section 340H of the
26 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h) at a

1 sustainable level of funding per full-time equivalent
2 resident, as recommended in the fact sheet of the
3 Health Resources and Services Administration enti-
4 tled “Cost Estimates for Training Residents in a
5 Teaching Health Center”.

6 **SEC. 3. PAYMENTS.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (g) of section 340H of
8 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h(g)) is
9 amended—

10 (1) by redesignating paragraph (2) as para-
11 graph (4); and

12 (2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(2) PAYMENTS TO APPROVED GRADUATE MED-
15 ICAL RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS.—To carry
16 out this section, for payments to approved graduate
17 medical residency programs (as defined in paragraph
18 (j)(1) of this section), there are appropriated
19 \$126,500,000 for fiscal year 2020, \$128,000,000 for
20 fiscal year 2021, \$130,000,000 for fiscal year 2022,
21 \$133,000,000 for fiscal year 2023, and
22 \$136,000,000 for fiscal year 2024, to remain avail-
23 able until expended.

24 “(3) PAYMENTS TO NEW APPROVED GRADUATE
25 MEDICAL RESIDENCY TRAINING PROGRAMS.—To

1 carry out this section, for payments to new approved
2 graduate medical residency training programs (as
3 defined in paragraph (j)(2) of this section), there are
4 appropriated \$8,500,000 for fiscal year 2021,
5 \$17,000,000 for fiscal year 2022, \$34,500,000 for
6 fiscal year 2023, and \$44,000,000 for fiscal year
7 2024, to remain available until expended.”.

8 (b) NUMBER OF RESIDENTS.—In calculating the
9 level of payments to each approved graduate medical resi-
10 dency training program pursuant to subsection (g)(2) of
11 section 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
12 256h), the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall
13 pay for the number of residents at a program at a number
14 that is no lower than the highest number of residents in
15 their programs for the period of fiscal years 2016 through
16 2018.

17 (c) LIMITATIONS.—The number of full-time equiva-
18 lent residents for which a qualified teaching health center
19 receives payments pursuant to subsection (a)(1)(C) of sec-
20 tion 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
21 256h) for a fiscal year shall not exceed by more than 6
22 the number of full-time equivalent residents for which the
23 center received such payments for the preceding fiscal
24 year.

1 (d) REPORT ON EXPANSION AND TRAINING COSTS.—
2 Not later than September 30, 2022, the Secretary of
3 Health and Human Services shall submit to the Congress
4 a report on the establishment of new approved graduate
5 medical residency programs and expansion of existing ap-
6 proved graduate medical residency programs. The report
7 shall include the locations of such programs, the number
8 of residents, and statistics regarding the number of pro-
9 grams receiving priority under subsection (a)(3) of section
10 340H of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 256h).
11 The report shall examine the direct graduate expenses of
12 approved graduate medical residency training programs;
13 the indirect expenses associated with the additional costs
14 of teaching residents; and determine the current per resi-
15 dent per year cost of training residents at qualified teach-
16 ing health centers.

17 (e) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF DATA.—The Secretary
18 of Health and Human Services shall make available to the
19 public the data reported by qualified teaching health cen-
20 ters pursuant to subsection (d) of this section and sub-
21 section (h)(1) of section 340H of the Public Health Serv-
22 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 256(h)).

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