

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 783

To amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 30, 2017

Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to distribute maternity care health professionals to health professional shortage areas identified as in need of maternity care health services.

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 “Improving Access to
5 Maternity Care Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. MATERNITY CARE HEALTH PROFESSIONAL TARGET**
2 **AREAS.**

3 Section 332 of the Public Health Service Act (42
4 U.S.C. 254e) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
5 lowing new subsection:

6 “(k)(1) The Secretary, acting through the Adminis-
7 trator of the Health Resources and Services Administra-
8 tion, shall identify, based on the data collected under para-
9 graph (3), maternity care health professional target areas
10 that satisfy the criteria described in paragraph (2) for
11 purposes of, in connection with receipt of assistance under
12 this title, assigning to such identified areas maternity care
13 health professionals who, without application of this sub-
14 section, would otherwise be eligible for such assistance.
15 The Secretary shall distribute maternity care health pro-
16 fessionals within health professional shortage areas using
17 the maternity care health professional target areas so
18 identified.

19 “(2) For purposes of paragraph (1), the Secretary
20 shall establish criteria for maternity care health profes-
21 sional target areas that identify geographic areas within
22 health professional shortage areas that have a shortage
23 of maternity care health professionals.

24 “(3) For purposes of this subsection, the Secretary
25 shall collect and publish in the Federal Register data com-
26 paring the availability and need of maternity care health

1 services in health professional shortage areas and in areas
2 within such health professional shortage areas.

3 “(4) In carrying out paragraph (1), the Secretary
4 shall seek input from relevant provider organizations, in-
5 cluding medical societies, organizations representing med-
6 ical facilities, and other organizations with expertise in
7 maternity care.

8 “(5) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘full
9 scope maternity care health services’ includes during labor
10 care, birthing, prenatal care, and postpartum care.

11 “(6) Nothing in this subsection shall be construed
12 as—

13 “(A) requiring the identification of a maternity
14 care health professional target area in an area not
15 otherwise already designated as a health professional
16 shortage area; or

17 “(B) affecting the types of health professionals,
18 without application of this subsection, otherwise eli-
19 gible for assistance, including a loan repayment or
20 scholarship, pursuant to the application of this sec-
21 tion.”.

○