

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6618

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a database to facilitate the provision of health care services by a volunteer at a Federal or State agency during the COVID–19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 24, 2020

Mr. CROW (for himself and Mr. WALTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a database to facilitate the provision of health care services by a volunteer at a Federal or State agency during the COVID–19 public health emergency, 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 “Temporary Responders
5 for Immediate Aid in Grave Emergencies Act of 2020”
6 or the “TRIAGE Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER PRO-**
2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL VOLUNTEER
4 DATABASE.—Not later than 7 days after the date of en-
5 actment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish a data-
6 base to facilitate the provision of health care services by
7 volunteers during the period of the public health emer-
8 gency at Federal or State agencies.

9 (b) VOLUNTEER INFORMATION COLLECTION.—For
10 purposes of the database under subsection (a), the Sec-
11 retary shall establish a toll-free telephone number and a
12 public website to collect the relevant information of health
13 care professional volunteers, including—

- 14 (1) the contact information of a volunteer; and
15 (2) the Federal or State agency at which the
16 health care professional prefers to volunteer.

17 (c) COORDINATION.— The Secretary of Health and
18 Human Services shall coordinate with the Secretary of
19 Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary
20 of Homeland Security, the Administrator of the Federal
21 Emergency Management Agency, the Attorney General of
22 the United States, and the State agencies with the pri-
23 mary responsibility for public health within the respective
24 States, to facilitate the exchange of information collected
25 pursuant to subsection (b).

1 **SEC. 3. GRANT PROGRAM TO EXPEDITE REACTIVATION OF**
2 **AN EXPIRED LICENSE.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants
4 to States for reactivating the expired licenses of health
5 care professionals to the extent necessary to allow such
6 professionals to volunteer, and assigning such profes-
7 sionals to volunteer, pursuant to section 2 during the pub-
8 lic health emergency.

9 (b) USE OF FUNDS.—

10 (1) PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY.—During the
11 public health emergency, a State receiving a grant
12 under this section may use such funds to—

13 (A) expedite the reactivation of a medical
14 license, including—

15 (i) a criminal record history check and
16 similar vetting as required under State law
17 for each volunteer;

18 (ii) covering the cost of reactivation of
19 the license;

20 (iii) hiring additional staff;

21 (iv) providing appropriate refresher
22 training; and

23 (v) any other logistical, administra-
24 tive, or material costs that may arise; and

25 (B) implement a process to assign a health
26 care professional to a hospital, a health care

1 clinic, or any other health care facility within
2 the State.

3 (2) TERMINATION OF PUBLIC HEALTH EMER-
4 GENCY.—If a State receiving a grant under this sec-
5 tion has grant funds remaining at the end of the
6 public health emergency, the State may use such
7 funds, during the 6-month period following such
8 emergency, for restoring health care system readi-
9 ness and procuring infectious disease personal pro-
10 tective equipment.

11 (c) REACTIVATED LICENSE.—

12 (1) IN GENERAL.—As a condition on receipt of
13 a grant under this section, a State shall require a
14 health care professional whose license is reactivated
15 pursuant to the grant to perform health care serv-
16 ices under the guidance of a health care professional
17 with an active license and in good standing on the
18 date of the enactment of this Act.

19 (2) RESTRICTION.—As a condition on receipt of
20 a grant under this section, a State may not use a
21 grant under this section to reactivate a license of an
22 unlicensed health care professional if—

23 (A) the unlicensed health care professional
24 was not in good standing when the medical li-
25 cense expired; or

1 (B) the unlicensed health care professional
2 has been convicted of a crime that would limit
3 their ability to provide health care services.

4 (d) GRANT AMOUNT.—The amount of a grant under
5 this section shall not exceed \$250,000.

6 (e) PERIOD OF THE GRANT.—The period of a grant
7 under this section shall be in effect only for the length
8 of the public health emergency.

9 (f) APPLICATION.—To be eligible to receive a grant
10 under this section, a State shall submit to the Secretary
11 an application in such form, and containing such informa-
12 tion, as the Secretary may require.

13 (g) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act
14 may be construed to require a State to continue in effect
15 a license beyond the public health emergency.

16 (h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—There is
17 authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out
18 this section.

19 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) Subject to paragraph (7), the term “health
22 care professional” means an individual who is li-
23 censed, registered, or certified under Federal or
24 State law to provide health care services.

1 (2) The term “health care services” means any
2 services provided by a health care professional, or by
3 any individual working under the supervision of a
4 health care professional, that relate to the assess-
5 ment or care of the health of a human being, includ-
6 ing the diagnosis, prevention, or treatment of
7 COVID-19.

8 (3) The term “license” includes a license, reg-
9 istration, or certification, as defined by the State of
10 licensure, registration, or certification to provide
11 health care services.

12 (4) The term “public health emergency” means
13 the public health emergency declared by the Sec-
14 retary pursuant to section 319 of the Public Health
15 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247d) on January 31, 2020,
16 with respect to COVID–19.

17 (5) Except as otherwise specified in this Act,
18 the term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Health
19 and Human Services.

20 (6) The term “State” has the meaning given
21 the term in section 311 of title 5, United States
22 Code.

23 (7) The term “unlicensed health care profes-
24 sional” means a health care professional with an ex-
25 pired license.

1 (8)(A) The term “volunteer” means a health
2 care professional who, with respect to the health
3 care services rendered, does not receive compensa-
4 tion or any other thing of value in lieu of compensa-
5 tion.

6 (B) In this paragraph the term “compensa-
7 tion”—

8 (i) includes a payment under any insur-
9 ance policy or health plan, or under any Fed-
10 eral or State health benefits program; and

11 (ii) excludes—

12 (I) receipt of items to be used exclu-
13 sively for rendering health care services;
14 and

15 (II) excludes any direct payment or
16 something of value from a State, hospital,
17 or any other donation, including reim-
18 bursement for travel, lodging, and per
19 diem in lieu of subsistence.

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