

110TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6551

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a loan repayment program for faculty members at programs of general dentistry or pediatric dentistry to alleviate faculty shortages.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 17, 2008

Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. SIMPSON) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a loan repayment program for faculty members at programs of general dentistry or pediatric dentistry to alleviate faculty shortages.

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 “Primary Care Dental
5 Academic Workforce Development Act of 2008”.

1 **SEC. 2. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR FACULTY AT**
2 **DENTISTRY PROGRAMS.**

3 Section 747 of the Public Health Service Act (42
4 U.S.C. 293k) is amended—

5 (1) in subsection (a)—

6 (A) in paragraph (6), by striking “finan-
7 cial assistance to residents” and inserting “fi-
8 nancial assistance to residents and faculty”;
9 and

10 (B) at the end of the matter following
11 paragraph (6), by adding the following: “Pro-
12 grams supported under paragraph (6) may in-
13 clude loan repayment programs described in
14 subsection (e).”;

15 (2) by redesignating subsection (e) as sub-
16 section (f); and

17 (3) by inserting after subsection (d) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(e) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM FOR FACULTY AT
20 DENTISTRY PROGRAMS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A grant or contract under
22 subsection (a)(6) may be awarded to a program of
23 general dentistry or pediatric dentistry described in
24 such subsection to plan, develop, and operate a loan
25 repayment program under which—

1 “(A) individuals agree to serve full-time as
2 faculty members; and

3 “(B) the program of general dentistry or
4 pediatric dentistry agrees to pay the principal
5 and interest on the outstanding student loans of
6 the individuals.

7 “(2) MANNER OF PAYMENTS.—The payments
8 described in paragraph (1)(B) shall be made as fol-
9 lows:

10 “(A) Upon completion by an individual of
11 each of the first, second, third, fourth, and fifth
12 years of service specified in the agreement be-
13 tween the individual and the program of general
14 dentistry or pediatric dentistry, the program
15 shall pay an amount equal to 10, 15, 20, 25,
16 and 30 percent, respectively, of the individual’s
17 student loan balance as calculated based on
18 principal and interest owed at the initiation of
19 the agreement.

20 “(B) The payments with respect to any in-
21 dividual—

22 “(i) shall not exceed \$250,000 in ag-
23 gregate;

1 “(ii) shall not exceed the total prin-
2 cipal and interest owed by the individual;
3 and

4 “(iii) shall be applied to the principal,
5 interest, and related expenses of govern-
6 ment (whether Federal, State, or local)
7 and commercial loans obtained by the indi-
8 vidual for school tuition, other reasonable
9 educational expenses, and reasonable living
10 expenses.

11 “(3) DIVERSITY.—The Secretary shall encour-
12 age programs receiving support through a grant or
13 contract described in paragraph (1) to use such sup-
14 port to broadly recruit diverse faculty.

15 “(4) PENALTIES.—The Secretary shall estab-
16 lish, and require that loan repayment agreements be-
17 tween programs and individuals under paragraph (1)
18 include, appropriate financial penalties to be applied
19 with respect to individuals not completing their serv-
20 ice obligations under such agreements.”.

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