

The EDA reauthorization adds new economic development tools, and it responds to communities subject to base closings and defense cutbacks.

The bill also recognizes and builds upon the ARC, a well-known, highly successful model for Federal-state cooperation.

Because of the foresight of the Transportation & Infrastructure Committee, and with the strong support of the senior Senator from West Virginia, ROBERT C. BYRD, the ARC's Appalachian Development Highway is now funded from the Highway Trust Fund as authorized under TEA21. Carving the development highway out of the ARC has reduced authorized funding by \$100 million a year, to \$67 million in FY99 and—as newly configured—permits better targeting of ARC funds to truly distressed regions within the 13 State, 400 county region.

Mr. Speaker despite being unauthorized since 1982, both the EDA and the ARC have continued to receive strong bipartisan support for continued funding over the years, but it wasn't always easy. I think it appropriate to thank the House Appropriations Committee leaders from both sides of the aisle over the past 17 years, for keeping hope alive for the ARC and the EDA.

I can think of hundreds of ARC projects that have helped West Virginia—but one that comes to mind is the Gardner Interchange and Industrial Park Water and Sewer Improvements. This project in Mercer county helped retain and create more than 768 jobs in an area struggling against economic decline and severe stress. And as I said, it is only one of many projects funded by the ARC to help the people of Appalachia continue to grow and to realize their full potential.

The Economic Development Administration—the EDA—has undergone significant downsizing over these 17 years—but the downsizing has strengthened rather than weakened it, improving its efficiency. This reauthorization today will give EDA the stability it lacked over these many years. Now it can move forward in response to the changing needs of America's distressed communities, and it can do so with confidence.

I applaud today's vote on the reauthorization of the EDA and the ARC, and can think of no more fitting way to continue the many economic benefits of these two vital programs than to carry them forward, into the 21st Century.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this legislation.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2364.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2364, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION PARTNERSHIPS ACT OF 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1754) to amend the Public Health Service Act to consolidate and reauthorize health professions and minority and disadvantaged health education programs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1754

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the "Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998".

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Health Professions Education Programs

Sec. 101. Under-represented minority health professions grant program.

Sec. 102. Training in primary care medicine and dentistry.

Sec. 103. Interdisciplinary, community-based linkages.

Sec. 104. Health professions workforce information and analysis.

Sec. 105. Public health workforce development.

Sec. 106. General provisions.

Sec. 107. Preference in certain programs.

Sec. 108. Definitions.

Sec. 109. Technical amendment on National Health Service Corps.

Sec. 110. Savings provision.

Subtitle B—Nursing Workforce Development

Sec. 121. Short title.

Sec. 122. Purpose.

Sec. 123. Amendments to Public Health Service Act.

Sec. 124. Savings provision.

Subtitle C—Financial Assistance

CHAPTER 1—SCHOOL-BASED REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS

Sec. 131. Primary care loan program.

Sec. 132. Loans for disadvantaged students.

Sec. 133. Student loans regarding schools of nursing.

Sec. 134. General provisions.

CHAPTER 2—INSURED HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS TO GRADUATE STUDENTS

Sec. 141. Health Education Assistance Loan Program.

Sec. 142. HEAL lender and holder performance standards.

Sec. 143. Insurance Program.

Sec. 144. HEAL bankruptcy.

Sec. 145. HEAL refinancing.

TITLE II—OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH

Sec. 201. Revision and extension of programs of Office of Minority Health.

TITLE III—SELECTED INITIATIVES

Sec. 301. State offices of rural health.

Sec. 302. Demonstration projects regarding Alzheimer's Disease.

Sec. 303. Project grants for immunization services.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

Sec. 401. Technical corrections regarding Public Law 103-183.

Sec. 402. Miscellaneous amendments regarding PHS commissioned officers.

Sec. 403. Clinical traineeships.

Sec. 404. Project grants for screenings, referrals, and education regarding lead poisoning.

Sec. 405. Project grants for preventive health services regarding tuberculosis.

Sec. 406. CDC loan repayment program.

Sec. 407. Community programs on domestic violence.

Sec. 408. State loan repayment program.

Sec. 409. Authority of the director of NIH.

Sec. 410. Raise in maximum level of loan repayments.

Sec. 411. Construction of regional centers for research on primates.

Sec. 412. Peer review.

Sec. 413. Funding for trauma care.

Sec. 414. Health information and health promotion.

Sec. 415. Emergency medical services for children.

Sec. 416. Administration of certain requirements.

Sec. 417. Aids drug assistance program.

Sec. 418. National Foundation for Biomedical Research.

Sec. 419. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome prevention and services.

TITLE I—HEALTH PROFESSIONS EDUCATION AND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS

Subtitle A—Health Professions Education Programs

SEC. 101. UNDER-REPRESENTED MINORITY HEALTH PROFESSIONS GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part B of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

"PART B—HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING FOR DIVERSITY

"SEC. 736. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make grants to, and enter into contracts with, designated health professions schools described in subsection (c), and other public and nonprofit health or educational entities, for the purpose of assisting the schools in supporting programs of excellence in health professions education for under-represented minority individuals.

"(b) REQUIRED USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may not make a grant under subsection (a) unless the designated health professions school involved agrees, subject to subsection (c)(1)(C), to expend the grant—

"(1) to develop a large competitive applicant pool through linkages with institutions of higher education, local school districts, and other community-based entities and establish an education pipeline for health professions careers;

"(2) to establish, strengthen, or expand programs to enhance the academic performance of under-represented minority students attending the school;

"(3) to improve the capacity of such school to train, recruit, and retain under-represented minority faculty including the payment of such stipends and fellowships as the Secretary may determine appropriate;

"(4) to carry out activities to improve the information resources, clinical education, curricula and cultural competence of the

graduates of the school, as it relates to minority health issues;

“(5) to facilitate faculty and student research on health issues particularly affecting under-represented minority groups, including research on issues relating to the delivery of health care;

“(6) to carry out a program to train students of the school in providing health services to a significant number of under-represented minority individuals through training provided to such students at community-based health facilities that—

“(A) provide such health services; and

“(B) are located at a site remote from the main site of the teaching facilities of the school; and

“(7) to provide stipends as the Secretary determines appropriate, in amounts as the Secretary determines appropriate.

“(C) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—

“(1) DESIGNATED SCHOOLS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The designated health professions schools referred to in subsection (a) are such schools that meet each of the conditions specified in subparagraphs (B) and (C), and that—

“(i) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (2)(A);

“(ii) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (3);

“(iii) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (4); or

“(iv) meet each of the conditions specified in paragraph (5).

“(B) GENERAL CONDITIONS.—The conditions specified in this subparagraph are that a designated health professions school—

“(i) has a significant number of under-represented minority individuals enrolled in the school, including individuals accepted for enrollment in the school;

“(ii) has been effective in assisting under-represented minority students of the school to complete the program of education and receive the degree involved;

“(iii) has been effective in recruiting under-represented minority individuals to enroll in and graduate from the school, including providing scholarships and other financial assistance to such individuals and encouraging under-represented minority students from all levels of the educational pipeline to pursue health professions careers; and

“(iv) has made significant recruitment efforts to increase the number of under-represented minority individuals serving in faculty or administrative positions at the school.

“(C) CONSORTIUM.—The condition specified in this subparagraph is that, in accordance with subsection (e)(1), the designated health profession school involved has with other health profession schools (designated or otherwise) formed a consortium to carry out the purposes described in subsection (b) at the schools of the consortium.

“(D) APPLICATION OF CRITERIA TO OTHER PROGRAMS.—In the case of any criteria established by the Secretary for purposes of determining whether schools meet the conditions described in subparagraph (B), this section may not, with respect to racial and ethnic minorities, be construed to authorize, require, or prohibit the use of such criteria in any program other than the program established in this section.

“(2) CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT CERTAIN HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—

“(A) CONDITIONS.—The conditions specified in this subparagraph are that a designated health professions school—

“(i) is a school described in section 799B(1); and

“(ii) received a contract under section 788B for fiscal year 1987, as such section was in effect for such fiscal year.

“(B) USE OF GRANT.—In addition to the purposes described in subsection (b), a grant under subsection (a) to a designated health professions school meeting the conditions described in subparagraph (A) may be expended—

“(i) to develop a plan to achieve institutional improvements, including financial independence, to enable the school to support programs of excellence in health professions education for under-represented minority individuals; and

“(ii) to provide improved access to the library and informational resources of the school.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—The requirements of paragraph (1)(C) shall not apply to a historically black college or university that receives funding under paragraphs (2) or (5).

“(3) HISPANIC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The conditions specified in this paragraph are that—

“(A) with respect to Hispanic individuals, each of clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) applies to the designated health professions school involved;

“(B) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that the school will, in carrying out the duties described in subsection (b), give priority to carrying out the duties with respect to Hispanic individuals; and

“(C) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that—

“(i) the school will establish an arrangement with 1 or more public or nonprofit community based Hispanic serving organizations, or public or nonprofit private institutions of higher education, including schools of nursing, whose enrollment of students has traditionally included a significant number of Hispanic individuals, the purposes of which will be to carry out a program—

“(I) to identify Hispanic students who are interested in a career in the health profession involved; and

“(II) to facilitate the educational preparation of such students to enter the health professions school; and

“(ii) the school will make efforts to recruit Hispanic students, including students who have participated in the undergraduate or other matriculation program carried out under arrangements established by the school pursuant to clause (i)(II) and will assist Hispanic students regarding the completion of the educational requirements for a degree from the school.

“(4) NATIVE AMERICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Subject to subsection (e), the conditions specified in this paragraph are that—

“(A) with respect to Native Americans, each of clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (1)(B) applies to the designated health professions school involved;

“(B) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that the school will, in carrying out the duties described in subsection (b), give priority to carrying out the duties with respect to Native Americans; and

“(C) the school agrees, as a condition of receiving a grant under subsection (a), that—

“(i) the school will establish an arrangement with 1 or more public or nonprofit private institutions of higher education, including schools of nursing, whose enrollment of students has traditionally included a significant number of Native Americans, the purpose of which arrangement will be to carry out a program—

“(I) to identify Native American students, from the institutions of higher education referred to in clause (i), who are interested in health professions careers; and

“(II) to facilitate the educational preparation of such students to enter the designated health professions school; and

“(ii) the designated health professions school will make efforts to recruit Native American students, including students who have participated in the undergraduate program carried out under arrangements established by the school pursuant to clause (i) and will assist Native American students regarding the completion of the educational requirements for a degree from the designated health professions school.

“(5) OTHER CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—The conditions specified in this paragraph are—

“(A) with respect to other centers of excellence, the conditions described in clauses (i) through (iv) of paragraph (1)(B); and

“(B) that the health professions school involved has an enrollment of under-represented minorities above the national average for such enrollments of health professions schools.

“(d) DESIGNATION AS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any designated health professions school receiving a grant under subsection (a) and meeting the conditions described in paragraph (2) or (5) of subsection (c) shall, for purposes of this section, be designated by the Secretary as a Center of Excellence in Under-Represented Minority Health Professions Education.

“(2) HISPANIC CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Any designated health professions school receiving a grant under subsection (a) and meeting the conditions described in subsection (c)(3) shall, for purposes of this section, be designated by the Secretary as a Hispanic Center of Excellence in Health Professions Education.

“(3) NATIVE AMERICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—Any designated health professions school receiving a grant under subsection (a) and meeting the conditions described in subsection (c)(4) shall, for purposes of this section, be designated by the Secretary as a Native American Center of Excellence in Health Professions Education. Any consortium receiving such a grant pursuant to subsection (e) shall, for purposes of this section, be so designated.

“(e) AUTHORITY REGARDING NATIVE AMERICAN CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—With respect to meeting the conditions specified in subsection (c)(4), the Secretary may make a grant under subsection (a) to a designated health professions school that does not meet such conditions if—

“(1) the school has formed a consortium in accordance with subsection (d)(1); and

“(2) the schools of the consortium collectively meet such conditions, without regard to whether the schools individually meet such conditions.

“(f) DURATION OF GRANT.—The period during which payments are made under a grant under subsection (a) may not exceed 5 years. Such payments shall be subject to annual approval by the Secretary and to the availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to make the payments.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) DESIGNATED HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOL.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘health professions school’ means, except as provided in subparagraph (B), a school of medicine, a school of osteopathic medicine, a school of dentistry, a school of pharmacy, or a graduate program in behavioral or mental health.

“(B) EXCEPTION.—The definition established in subparagraph (A) shall not apply to the use of the term ‘designated health professions school’ for purposes of subsection (c)(2).

“(2) PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE.—The term ‘program of excellence’ means any program

carried out by a designated health professions school with a grant made under subsection (a), if the program is for purposes for which the school involved is authorized in subsection (b) or (c) to expend the grant.

“(3) NATIVE AMERICANS.—The term ‘Native Americans’ means American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Aleuts, and Native Hawaiians.

“(h) FUNDING.—

“(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of making grants under subsection (a), there authorized to be appropriated \$26,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

“(2) ALLOCATIONS.—Based on the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, one of the following subparagraphs shall apply:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year are \$24,000,000 or less—

“(i) the Secretary shall make available \$12,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(2)(A); and

“(ii) and available after grants are made with funds under clause (i), the Secretary shall make available—

“(I) 60 percent of such amount for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (c) (including meeting the conditions under subsection (e)); and

“(II) 40 percent of such amount for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(5).

“(B) FUNDING IN EXCESS OF \$24,000,000.—If amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year exceed \$24,000,000 but are less than \$30,000,000—

“(i) 80 percent of such excess amounts shall be made available for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the requirements described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (c) (including meeting conditions pursuant to subsection (e)); and

“(ii) 20 percent of such excess amount shall be made available for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(5).

“(C) FUNDING IN EXCESS OF \$30,000,000.—If amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year are \$30,000,000 or more, the Secretary shall make available—

“(i) not less than \$12,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(2)(A);

“(ii) not less than \$12,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (c) (including meeting conditions pursuant to subsection (e));

“(iii) not less than \$6,000,000 for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in subsection (c)(5); and

“(iv) after grants are made with funds under clauses (i) through (iii), any remaining funds for grants under subsection (a) to health professions schools that meet the conditions described in paragraph (2)(A), (3), (4), or (5) of subsection (c).

“(3) NO LIMITATION.—Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as limiting the centers of excellence referred to in this section to the designated amount, or to preclude such entities from competing for other grants under this section.

“(4) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—With respect to activities for which a grant made under this part

are authorized to be expended, the Secretary may not make such a grant to a center of excellence for any fiscal year unless the center agrees to maintain expenditures of non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the center for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the school receives such a grant.

“(B) USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—With respect to any Federal amounts received by a center of excellence and available for carrying out activities for which a grant under this part is authorized to be expended, the Secretary may not make such a grant to the center for any fiscal year unless the center agrees that the center will, before expending the grant, expend the Federal amounts obtained from sources other than the grant.

“SEC. 737. SCHOLARSHIPS FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make a grant to an eligible entity (as defined in subsection (d)(1)) under this section for the awarding of scholarships by schools to any full-time student who is an eligible individual as defined in subsection (d). Such scholarships may be expended only for tuition expenses, other reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living expenses incurred in the attendance of such school.

“(b) PREFERENCE IN PROVIDING SCHOLARSHIPS.—The Secretary may not make a grant to an entity under subsection (a) unless the health professions and nursing schools involved agree that, in providing scholarships pursuant to the grant, the schools will give preference to students for whom the costs of attending the schools would constitute a severe financial hardship and, notwithstanding other provisions of this section, to former recipients of scholarships under sections 736 and 740(d)(2)(B) (as such sections existed on the day before the date of enactment of this section).

“(c) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—In awarding grants to eligible entities that are health professions and nursing schools, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities based on the proportion of graduating students going into primary care, the proportion of underrepresented minority students, and the proportion of graduates working in medically underserved communities.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term ‘eligible entities’ means an entity that—

“(A) is a school of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing (as defined in section 801), pharmacy, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, public health, chiropractic, or allied health, a school offering a graduate program in behavioral and mental health practice, or an entity providing programs for the training of physician assistants; and

“(B) is carrying out a program for recruiting and retaining students from disadvantaged backgrounds, including students who are members of racial and ethnic minority groups.

“(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible individual’ means an individual who—

“(A) is from a disadvantaged background;

“(B) has a financial need for a scholarship; and

“(C) is enrolled (or accepted for enrollment) at an eligible health professions or nursing school as a full-time student in a program leading to a degree in a health profession or nursing.

“SEC. 738. LOAN REPAYMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS REGARDING FACULTY POSITIONS.

“(a) LOAN REPAYMENTS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program of entering into contracts with individuals described

in paragraph (2) under which the individuals agree to serve as members of the faculties of schools described in paragraph (3) in consideration of the Federal Government agreeing to pay, for each year of such service, not more than \$20,000 of the principal and interest of the educational loans of such individuals.

“(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The individuals referred to in paragraph (1) are individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who—

“(A) have a degree in medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing, or another health profession;

“(B) are enrolled in an approved graduate training program in medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, nursing, or other health profession; or

“(C) are enrolled as full-time students—

“(i) in an accredited (as determined by the Secretary) school described in paragraph (3); and

“(ii) in the final year of a course of a study or program, offered by such institution and approved by the Secretary, leading to a degree from such a school.

“(3) ELIGIBLE HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOOLS.—The schools described in this paragraph are schools of medicine, nursing (as schools of nursing are defined in section 801), osteopathic medicine, dentistry, pharmacy, allied health, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary medicine, or public health, or schools offering graduate programs in behavioral and mental health.

“(4) REQUIREMENTS REGARDING FACULTY POSITIONS.—The Secretary may not enter into a contract under paragraph (1) unless—

“(A) the individual involved has entered into a contract with a school described in paragraph (3) to serve as a member of the faculty of the school for not less than 2 years; and

“(B) the contract referred to in subparagraph (A) provides that—

“(i) the school will, for each year for which the individual will serve as a member of the faculty under the contract with the school, make payments of the principal and interest due on the educational loans of the individual for such year in an amount equal to the amount of such payments made by the Secretary for the year;

“(ii) the payments made by the school pursuant to clause (i) on behalf of the individual will be in addition to the pay that the individual would otherwise receive for serving as a member of such faculty; and

“(iii) the school, in making a determination of the amount of compensation to be provided by the school to the individual for serving as a member of the faculty, will make the determination without regard to the amount of payments made (or to be made) to the individual by the Federal Government under paragraph (1).

“(5) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—The provisions of sections 338C, 338G, and 338I shall apply to the program established in paragraph (1) to the same extent and in the same manner as such provisions apply to the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program established in subpart III of part D of title III, including the applicability of provisions regarding reimbursements for increased tax liability and regarding bankruptcy.

“(6) WAIVER REGARDING SCHOOL CONTRIBUTIONS.—The Secretary may waive the requirement established in paragraph (4)(B) if the Secretary determines that the requirement will impose an undue financial hardship on the school involved.

“(b) FELLOWSHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities to assist such entities in increasing the number of underrepresented minority

individuals who are members of the faculty of such schools.

“(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under this subsection, an entity shall provide an assurance, in the application submitted by the entity, that—

“(A) amounts received under such a grant or contract will be used to award a fellowship to an individual only if the individual meets the requirements of paragraphs (3) and (4); and

“(B) each fellowship awarded pursuant to the grant or contract will include—

“(i) a stipend in an amount not exceeding 50 percent of the regular salary of a similar faculty member for not to exceed 3 years of training; and

“(ii) an allowance for other expenses, such as travel to professional meetings and costs related to specialized training.

“(3) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under paragraph (1), an applicant shall demonstrate to the Secretary that such applicant has or will have the ability to—

“(A) identify, recruit and select underrepresented minority individuals who have the potential for teaching, administration, or conducting research at a health professions institution;

“(B) provide such individuals with the skills necessary to enable them to secure a tenured faculty position at such institution, which may include training with respect to pedagogical skills, program administration, the design and conduct of research, grants writing, and the preparation of articles suitable for publication in peer reviewed journals;

“(C) provide services designed to assist such individuals in their preparation for an academic career, including the provision of counselors; and

“(D) provide health services to rural or medically underserved populations.

“(4) REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under paragraph (1) an applicant shall—

“(A) provide an assurance that such applicant will make available (directly through cash donations) \$1 for every \$1 of Federal funds received under this section for the fellowship;

“(B) provide an assurance that institutional support will be provided for the individual for the second and third years at a level that is equal to the total amount of institutional funds provided in the year in which the grant or contract was awarded;

“(C) provide an assurance that the individual that will receive the fellowship will be a member of the faculty of the applicant school; and

“(D) provide an assurance that the individual that will receive the fellowship will have, at a minimum, appropriate advanced preparation (such as a master's or doctoral degree) and special skills necessary to enable such individual to teach and practice.

“(5) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘underrepresented minority individuals’ means individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups that are underrepresented in the health professions including nursing.

“SEC. 739. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN THE HEALTH PROFESSIONS REGARDING INDIVIDUALS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—

“(1) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—For the purpose of assisting individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, as determined in accordance with criteria prescribed by the Secretary, to undertake education to enter a health profession, the Secretary may make grants to and enter into contracts with

schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied health, chiropractic, and podiatric medicine, public and nonprofit private schools that offer graduate programs in behavioral and mental health, programs for the training of physician assistants, and other public or private nonprofit health or educational entities to assist in meeting the costs described in paragraph (2).

“(2) AUTHORIZED EXPENDITURES.—A grant or contract under paragraph (1) may be used by the entity to meet the cost of—

“(A) identifying, recruiting, and selecting individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, as so determined, for education and training in a health profession;

“(B) facilitating the entry of such individuals into such a school;

“(C) providing counseling, mentoring, or other services designed to assist such individuals to complete successfully their education at such a school;

“(D) providing, for a period prior to the entry of such individuals into the regular course of education of such a school, preliminary education and health research training designed to assist them to complete successfully such regular course of education at such a school, or referring such individuals to institutions providing such preliminary education;

“(E) publicizing existing sources of financial aid available to students in the education program of such a school or who are undertaking training necessary to qualify them to enroll in such a program;

“(F) paying such scholarships as the Secretary may determine for such individuals for any period of health professions education at a health professions school;

“(G) paying such stipends as the Secretary may approve for such individuals for any period of education in student-enhancement programs (other than regular courses), except that such a stipend may not be provided to an individual for more than 12 months, and such a stipend shall be in an amount determined appropriate by the Secretary (notwithstanding any other provision of law regarding the amount of stipends);

“(H) carrying out programs under which such individuals gain experience regarding a career in a field of primary health care through working at facilities of public or private nonprofit community-based providers of primary health services; and

“(I) conducting activities to develop a larger and more competitive applicant pool through partnerships with institutions of higher education, school districts, and other community-based entities.

“(3) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term ‘regular course of education of such a school’ as used in subparagraph (D) includes a graduate program in behavioral or mental health.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR AWARDS.—In making awards to eligible entities under subsection (a)(1), the Secretary shall give preference to approved applications for programs that involve a comprehensive approach by several public or nonprofit private health or educational entities to establish, enhance and expand educational programs that will result in the development of a competitive applicant pool of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds who desire to pursue health professions careers. In considering awards for such a comprehensive partnership approach, the following shall apply with respect to the entity involved:

“(1) The entity shall have a demonstrated commitment to such approach through formal agreements that have common objectives with institutions of higher education,

school districts, and other community-based entities.

“(2) Such formal agreements shall reflect the coordination of educational activities and support services, increased linkages, and the consolidation of resources within a specific geographic area.

“(3) The design of the educational activities involved shall provide for the establishment of a competitive health professions applicant pool of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds by enhancing the total preparation (academic and social) of such individuals to pursue a health professions career.

“(4) The programs or activities under the award shall focus on developing a culturally competent health care workforce that will serve the unserved and underserved populations within the geographic area.

“(c) EQUITABLE ALLOCATION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary, to the extent practicable, shall ensure that services and activities under subsection (a) are adequately allocated among the various racial and ethnic populations who are from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“(d) MATCHING REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary may require that an entity that applies for a grant or contract under subsection (a), provide non-Federal matching funds, as appropriate, to ensure the institutional commitment of the entity to the projects funded under the grant or contract. As determined by the Secretary, such non-Federal matching funds may be provided directly or through donations from public or private entities and may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

“SEC. 740. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.

“(a) SCHOLARSHIPS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 737, \$37,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002. Of the amount appropriated in any fiscal year, the Secretary shall ensure that not less than 16 percent shall be distributed to schools of nursing.

“(b) LOAN REPAYMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS.—For the purpose of carrying out section 738, there is authorized to be appropriated \$1,100,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

“(c) EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE IN HEALTH PROFESSIONS REGARDING INDIVIDUALS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS.—For the purpose of grants and contracts under section 739(a)(1), there is authorized to be appropriated \$29,400,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002. The Secretary may use not to exceed 20 percent of the amount appropriated for a fiscal year under this subsection to provide scholarships under section 739(a)(2)(F).

“(d) REPORT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this part, the Secretary shall prepare and submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report concerning the efforts of the Secretary to address the need for a representative mix of individuals from historically minority health professions schools, or from institutions or other entities that historically or by geographic location have a demonstrated record of training or educating underrepresented minorities, within various health professions disciplines, on peer review councils.”.

(b) REPEAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 795 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295n) is repealed.

(2) NONTERMINATION OF AUTHORITY.—The amendments made by this section shall not be construed to terminate agreements that,

on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, are in effect pursuant to section 795 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 795) as such section existed on such date. Such agreements shall continue in effect in accordance with the terms of the agreements. With respect to compliance with such agreements, any period of practice as a provider of primary health services shall be counted towards the satisfaction of the requirement of practice pursuant to such section 795.

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 481A(c)(3)(D)(i) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 287a-2(c)(3)(D)(i)) is amended by striking "section 739" and inserting "part B of title VII".

SEC. 102. TRAINING IN PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY.

Part C of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in the part heading by striking "**PRIMARY HEALTH CARE**" and inserting "**FAMILY MEDICINE, GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE, GENERAL PEDIATRICS, PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS, GENERAL DENTISTRY, AND PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY**";

(2) by repealing section 746 (42 U.S.C. 293j);

(3) in section 747 (42 U.S.C. 293k)—

(A) by striking the section heading and inserting the following:

"SEC. 747. FAMILY MEDICINE, GENERAL INTERNAL MEDICINE, GENERAL PEDIATRICS, GENERAL DENTISTRY, PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY, AND PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.":

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) in paragraph (1)—

(I) by inserting " , internal medicine, or pediatrics" after "family medicine"; and

(II) by inserting before the semicolon the following: "that emphasizes training for the practice of family medicine, general internal medicine, or general pediatrics (as defined by the Secretary)";

(ii) in paragraph (2), by inserting " , general internal medicine, or general pediatrics" before the semicolon;

(iii) in paragraphs (3) and (4), by inserting "(including geriatrics), general internal medicine or general pediatrics" after "family medicine";

(iv) in paragraph (3), by striking "and" at the end thereof;

(v) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(vii) by adding at the end thereof the following new paragraphs:

"(5) to meet the costs of projects to plan, develop, and operate or maintain programs for the training of physician assistants (as defined in section 799B), and for the training of individuals who will teach in programs to provide such training; and

"(6) to meet the costs of planning, developing, or operating programs, and to provide financial assistance to residents in such programs, of general dentistry or pediatric dentistry.

For purposes of paragraph (6), entities eligible for such grants or contracts shall include entities that have programs in dental schools, approved residency programs in the general or pediatric practice of dentistry, approved advanced education programs in the general or pediatric practice of dentistry, or approved residency programs in pediatric dentistry.":

(C) in subsection (b)—

(i) in paragraphs (1) and (2)(A), by inserting " , general internal medicine, or general pediatrics" after "family medicine";

(ii) in paragraph (2)—

(I) in subparagraph (A), by striking "or" at the end; and

(II) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting " ; or"; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

"(3) PRIORITY IN MAKING AWARDS.—In making awards of grants and contracts under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to any qualified applicant for such an award that proposes a collaborative project between departments of primary care.":

(D) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively;

(E) by inserting after subsection (b), the following new subsection:

"(c) PRIORITY.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to programs for the training of interns or residents, the Secretary shall give priority in awarding grants under this section to qualified applicants that have a record of training the greatest percentage of providers, or that have demonstrated significant improvements in the percentage of providers, which enter and remain in primary care practice or general or pediatric dentistry.

"(2) DISADVANTAGED INDIVIDUALS.—With respect to programs for the training of interns, residents, or physician assistants, the Secretary shall give priority in awarding grants under this section to qualified applicants that have a record of training individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among primary care practice or general or pediatric dentistry).

"(3) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In awarding grants under this section the Secretary shall give special consideration to projects which prepare practitioners to care for underserved populations and other high risk groups such as the elderly, individuals with HIV-AIDS, substance abusers, homeless, and victims of domestic violence.":

(F) in subsection (e) (as so redesignated by subparagraph (D))—

(i) in paragraph (1), by striking "\$54,000,000" and all that follows and inserting "\$78,300,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.":

(ii) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

"(2) ALLOCATION.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall make available—

"(i) not less than \$49,300,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs of family medicine, of which not less than \$8,600,000 shall be made available for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (b) for family medicine academic administrative units;

"(ii) not less than \$17,700,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs of general internal medicine and general pediatrics;

"(iii) not less than \$6,800,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs relating to physician assistants; and

"(iv) not less than \$4,500,000 for awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a) to programs of general or pediatric dentistry.

"(B) RATABLY REDUCTION.—If amounts appropriated under paragraph (1) for any fiscal year are less than the amount required to comply with subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall ratably reduce the amount to be made available under each of clauses (i) through (iv) of such subparagraph accordingly.":

(4) by repealing sections 748 through 752 (42 U.S.C. 293l through 293p) and inserting the following:

"SEC. 748. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON TRAINING IN PRIMARY CARE MEDICINE AND DENTISTRY.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry

(in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Committee').

"(b) COMPOSITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine the appropriate number of individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee. Such individuals shall not be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

"(2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Committee from among individuals who are health professionals. In making such appointments, the Secretary shall ensure a fair balance between the health professions, that at least 75 percent of the members of the Advisory Committee are health professionals, a broad geographic representation of members and a balance between urban and rural members. Members shall be appointed based on their competence, interest, and knowledge of the mission of the profession involved.

"(3) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—In appointing the members of the Advisory Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure the adequate representation of women and minorities.

"(c) TERMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that of the members first appointed—

"(A) 1/3 of such members shall serve for a term of 1 year;

"(B) 1/3 of such members shall serve for a term of 2 years; and

"(C) 1/3 of such members shall serve for a term of 3 years.

"(2) VACANCIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall be subject to any conditions which applied with respect to the original appointment.

"(B) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

"(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall—

"(1) provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary concerning policy and program development and other matters of significance concerning the activities under section 747; and

"(2) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Secretary, and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report describing the activities of the Committee, including findings and recommendations made by the Committee concerning the activities under section 747.

"(e) MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS.—

"(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less than 2 times each year. Such meetings shall be held jointly with other related entities established under this title where appropriate.

"(2) DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 14 days prior to the convening of a meeting under paragraph (1), the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available an agenda of the matters to be considered by the Advisory Committee at such meeting. At any such meeting, the Advisory Council shall distribute materials with respect to the issues to be addressed at the meeting. Not later than 30 days after the adjourning of such a meeting, the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available a summary of the meeting and any actions taken by the Committee based upon the meeting.

“(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—

“(1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Advisory Committee shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Committee.

“(2) EXPENSES.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.

“(g) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall apply to the Advisory Committee under this section only to the extent that the provisions of such Act do not conflict with the requirements of this section.”.

SEC. 103. INTERDISCIPLINARY, COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES.

Part D of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294 et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“PART D—INTERDISCIPLINARY, COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES

“SEC. 750. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

“(a) COLLABORATION.—To be eligible to receive assistance under this part, an academic institution shall use such assistance in collaboration with 2 or more disciplines.

“(b) ACTIVITIES.—An entity shall use assistance under this part to carry out innovative demonstration projects for strategic workforce supplementation activities as needed to meet national goals for interdisciplinary, community-based linkages. Such assistance may be used consistent with this part—

“(1) to develop and support training programs;

“(2) for faculty development;

“(3) for model demonstration programs;

“(4) for the provision of stipends for fellowship trainees;

“(5) to provide technical assistance; and

“(6) for other activities that will produce outcomes consistent with the purposes of this part.

“SEC. 751. AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS.

“(a) AUTHORITY FOR PROVISION OF FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) ASSISTANCE FOR PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, AND OPERATION OF PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants to and enter into contracts with schools of medicine and osteopathic medicine, and incorporated consortia made up of such schools, or the parent institutions of such schools, for projects for the planning, development and operation of area health education center programs that—

“(i) improve the recruitment, distribution, supply, quality and efficiency of personnel providing health services in underserved rural and urban areas and personnel providing health services to populations having demonstrated serious unmet health care needs;

“(ii) increase the number of primary care physicians and other primary care providers who provide services in underserved areas through the offering of an educational continuum of health career recruitment through clinical education concerning underserved areas in a comprehensive health workforce strategy;

“(iii) carry out recruitment and health career awareness programs to recruit individuals from underserved areas and under-represented populations, including minority and other elementary or secondary students, into the health professions;

“(iv) prepare individuals to more effectively provide health services to underserved areas or underserved populations through field placements, preceptorships, the conduct of or support of community-based primary care residency programs, and agreements with community-based organizations such as community health centers, migrant health centers, Indian health centers, public health departments and others;

“(v) conduct health professions education and training activities for students of health professions schools and medical residents;

“(vi) conduct at least 10 percent of medical student required clinical education at sites remote to the primary teaching facility of the contracting institution; and

“(vii) provide information dissemination and educational support to reduce professional isolation, increase retention, enhance the practice environment, and improve health care through the timely dissemination of research findings using relevant resources.

“(B) OTHER ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—With respect to a State in which no area health education center program is in operation, the Secretary may award a grant or contract under subparagraph (A) to a school of nursing.

“(C) PROJECT TERMS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the period during which payments may be made under an award under subparagraph (A) may not exceed—

“(I) in the case of a project, 12 years or

“(II) in the case of a center within a project, 6 years.

“(ii) EXCEPTION.—The periods described in clause (i) shall not apply to projects that have completed the initial period of Federal funding under this section and that desire to compete for model awards under paragraph (2)(A).

“(2) ASSISTANCE FOR OPERATION OF MODEL PROGRAMS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any entity described in paragraph (1)(A) that—

“(i) has previously received funds under this section;

“(ii) is operating an area health education center program; and

“(iii) is no longer receiving financial assistance under paragraph (1);

the Secretary may provide financial assistance to such entity to pay the costs of operating and carrying out the requirements of the program as described in paragraph (1).

“(B) MATCHING REQUIREMENT.—With respect to the costs of operating a model program under subparagraph (A), an entity, to be eligible for financial assistance under subparagraph (A), shall make available (directly or through contributions from State, county or municipal governments, or the private sector) recurring non-Federal contributions in cash toward such costs in an amount that is equal to not less than 50 percent of such costs.

“(C) LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount of awards provided under subparagraph (A) to entities in a State for a fiscal year may not exceed the lesser of—

“(i) \$2,000,000; or

“(ii) an amount equal to the product of \$250,000 and the aggregate number of area health education centers operated in the State by such entities.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTERS.—

“(1) GENERAL REQUIREMENT.—Each area health education center that receives funds under this section shall encourage the regionalization of health professions schools through the establishment of partnerships with community-based organizations.

“(2) SERVICE AREA.—Each area health education center that receives funds under this

section shall specifically designate a geographic area or medically underserved population to be served by the center. Such area or population shall be in a location removed from the main location of the teaching facilities of the schools participating in the program with such center.

“(3) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Each area health education center that receives funds under this section shall—

“(A) assess the health personnel needs of the area to be served by the center and assist in the planning and development of training programs to meet such needs;

“(B) arrange and support rotations for students and residents in family medicine, general internal medicine or general pediatrics, with at least one center in each program being affiliated with or conducting a rotating osteopathic internship or medical residency training program in family medicine (including geriatrics), general internal medicine (including geriatrics), or general pediatrics in which no fewer than 4 individuals are enrolled in first-year positions;

“(C) conduct and participate in interdisciplinary training that involves physicians and other health personnel including, where practicable, public health professionals, physician assistants, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and behavioral and mental health providers; and

“(D) have an advisory board, at least 75 percent of the members of which shall be individuals, including both health service providers and consumers, from the area served by the center.

“(c) CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING FUNDING.—

“(1) ALLOCATION TO CENTER.—Not less than 75 percent of the total amount of Federal funds provided to an entity under this section shall be allocated by an area health education center program to the area health education center. Such entity shall enter into an agreement with each center for purposes of specifying the allocation of such 75 percent of funds.

“(2) OPERATING COSTS.—With respect to the operating costs of the area health education center program of an entity receiving funds under this section, the entity shall make available (directly or through contributions from State, county or municipal governments, or the private sector) non-Federal contributions in cash toward such costs in an amount that is equal to not less than 50 percent of such costs, except that the Secretary may grant a waiver for up to 75 percent of the amount of the required non-Federal match in the first 3 years in which an entity receives funds under this section.

“SEC. 752. HEALTH EDUCATION AND TRAINING CENTERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible for funds under this section, a health education training center shall be an entity otherwise eligible for funds under section 751 that—

“(1) addresses the persistent and severe unmet health care needs in States along the border between the United States and Mexico and in the State of Florida, and in other urban and rural areas with populations with serious unmet health care needs;

“(2) establishes an advisory board comprised of health service providers, educators and consumers from the service area;

“(3) conducts training and education programs for health professions students in these areas;

“(4) conducts training in health education services, including training to prepare community health workers; and

“(5) supports health professionals (including nursing) practicing in the area through educational and other services.

“(b) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall make available 50 percent of the

amounts appropriated for each fiscal year under section 752 for the establishment or operation of health education training centers through projects in States along the border between the United States and Mexico and in the State of Florida.

“SEC. 753. EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATING TO GERIATRICS.

“(a) GERIATRIC EDUCATION CENTERS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award grants or contracts under this section to entities described in paragraphs (1), (3), or (4) of section 799B, and section 853(2), for the establishment or operation of geriatric education centers.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—A geriatric education center is a program that—

“(A) improves the training of health professionals in geriatrics, including geriatric residencies, traineeships, or fellowships;

“(B) develops and disseminates curricula relating to the treatment of the health problems of elderly individuals;

“(C) supports the training and retraining of faculty to provide instruction in geriatrics;

“(D) supports continuing education of health professionals who provide geriatric care; and

“(E) provides students with clinical training in geriatrics in nursing homes, chronic and acute disease hospitals, ambulatory care centers, and senior centers.

“(b) GERIATRIC TRAINING REGARDING PHYSICIANS AND DENTISTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to, and enter into contracts with, schools of medicine, schools of osteopathic medicine, teaching hospitals, and graduate medical education programs, for the purpose of providing support (including residencies, traineeships, and fellowships) for geriatric training projects to train physicians, dentists and behavioral and mental health professionals who plan to teach geriatric medicine, geriatric behavioral or mental health, or geriatric dentistry.

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—Each project for which a grant or contract is made under this subsection shall—

“(A) be staffed by full-time teaching physicians who have experience or training in geriatric medicine or geriatric behavioral or mental health;

“(B) be staffed, or enter into an agreement with an institution staffed by full-time or part-time teaching dentists who have experience or training in geriatric dentistry;

“(C) be staffed, or enter into an agreement with an institution staffed by full-time or part-time teaching behavioral mental health professionals who have experience or training in geriatric behavioral or mental health;

“(D) be based in a graduate medical education program in internal medicine or family medicine or in a department of geriatrics or behavioral or mental health;

“(E) provide training in geriatrics and exposure to the physical and mental disabilities of elderly individuals through a variety of service rotations, such as geriatric consultation services, acute care services, dental services, geriatric behavioral or mental health units, day and home care programs, rehabilitation services, extended care facilities, geriatric ambulatory care and comprehensive evaluation units, and community care programs for elderly mentally retarded individuals; and

“(F) provide training in geriatrics through one or both of the training options described in subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (3).

“(3) TRAINING OPTIONS.—The training options referred to in subparagraph (F) of paragraph (2) shall be as follows:

“(A) A 1-year retraining program in geriatrics for—

“(i) physicians who are faculty members in departments of internal medicine, family medicine, gynecology, geriatrics, and behavioral or mental health at schools of medicine and osteopathic medicine;

“(ii) dentists who are faculty members at schools of dentistry or at hospital departments of dentistry; and

“(iii) behavioral or mental health professionals who are faculty members in departments of behavioral or mental health; and

“(B) A 2-year internal medicine or family medicine fellowship program providing emphasis in geriatrics, which shall be designed to provide training in clinical geriatrics and geriatrics research for—

“(i) physicians who have completed graduate medical education programs in internal medicine, family medicine, behavioral or mental health, neurology, gynecology, or rehabilitation medicine;

“(ii) dentists who have demonstrated a commitment to an academic career and who have completed postdoctoral dental training, including postdoctoral dental education programs or who have relevant advanced training or experience; and

“(iii) behavioral or mental health professionals who have completed graduate medical education programs in behavioral or mental health.

“(4) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) The term ‘graduate medical education program’ means a program sponsored by a school of medicine, a school of osteopathic medicine, a hospital, or a public or private institution that—

“(i) offers postgraduate medical training in the specialties and subspecialties of medicine; and

“(ii) has been accredited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education or the American Osteopathic Association through its Committee on Postdoctoral Training.

“(B) The term ‘post-doctoral dental education program’ means a program sponsored by a school of dentistry, a hospital, or a public or private institution that—

“(i) offers post-doctoral training in the specialties of dentistry, advanced education in general dentistry, or a dental general practice residency; and

“(ii) has been accredited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

“(c) GERIATRIC FACULTY FELLOWSHIPS.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall establish a program to provide Geriatric Academic Career Awards to eligible individuals to promote the career development of such individuals as academic geriatricians.

“(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—To be eligible to receive an Award under paragraph (1), an individual shall—

“(A) be board certified or board eligible in internal medicine, family practice, or psychiatry;

“(B) have completed an approved fellowship program in geriatrics; and

“(C) have a junior faculty appointment at an accredited (as determined by the Secretary) school of medicine or osteopathic medicine.

“(3) LIMITATIONS.—No Award under paragraph (1) may be made to an eligible individual unless the individual—

“(A) has submitted to the Secretary an application, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require, and the Secretary has approved such application; and

“(B) provides, in such form and manner as the Secretary may require, assurances that the individual will meet the service requirement described in subsection (e).

“(4) AMOUNT AND TERM.—

“(A) AMOUNT.—The amount of an Award under this section shall equal \$50,000 for fiscal year 1998, adjusted for subsequent fiscal years to reflect the increase in the Consumer Price Index.

“(B) TERM.—The term of any Award made under this subsection shall not exceed 5 years.

“(5) SERVICE REQUIREMENT.—An individual who receives an Award under this subsection shall provide training in clinical geriatrics, including the training of interdisciplinary teams of health care professionals. The provision of such training shall constitute at least 75 percent of the obligations of such individual under the Award.

“SEC. 754. QUENTIN N. BURDICK PROGRAM FOR RURAL INTERDISCIPLINARY TRAINING.

“(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make grants or contracts under this section to help entities fund authorized activities under an application approved under subsection (c).

“(b) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided under subsection (a) shall be used by the recipients to fund interdisciplinary training projects designed to—

“(A) use new and innovative methods to train health care practitioners to provide services in rural areas;

“(B) demonstrate and evaluate innovative interdisciplinary methods and models designed to provide access to cost-effective comprehensive health care;

“(C) deliver health care services to individuals residing in rural areas;

“(D) enhance the amount of relevant research conducted concerning health care issues in rural areas; and

“(E) increase the recruitment and retention of health care practitioners from rural areas and make rural practice a more attractive career choice for health care practitioners.

“(2) METHODS.—A recipient of funds under subsection (a) may use various methods in carrying out the projects described in paragraph (1), including—

“(A) the distribution of stipends to students of eligible applicants;

“(B) the establishment of a post-doctoral fellowship program;

“(C) the training of faculty in the economic and logistical problems confronting rural health care delivery systems; or

“(D) the purchase or rental of transportation and telecommunication equipment where the need for such equipment due to unique characteristics of the rural area is demonstrated by the recipient.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An applicant shall not use more than 10 percent of the funds made available to such applicant under subsection (a) for administrative expenses.

“(B) TRAINING.—Not more than 10 percent of the individuals receiving training with funds made available to an applicant under subsection (a) shall be trained as doctors of medicine or doctors of osteopathy.

“(C) LIMITATION.—An institution that receives a grant under this section shall use amounts received under such grant to supplement, not supplant, amounts made available by such institution for activities of the type described in subsection (b)(1) in the fiscal year preceding the year for which the grant is received.

“(c) APPLICATIONS.—Applications submitted for assistance under this section shall—

“(1) be jointly submitted by at least two eligible applicants with the express purpose of assisting individuals in academic institutions in establishing long-term collaborative relationships with health care providers in rural areas; and

"(2) designate a rural health care agency or agencies for clinical treatment or training, including hospitals, community health centers, migrant health centers, rural health clinics, community behavioral and mental health centers, long-term care facilities, Native Hawaiian health centers, or facilities operated by the Indian Health Service or an Indian tribe or tribal organization or Indian organization under a contract with the Indian Health Service under the Indian Self-Determination Act.

"(d) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section, the term 'rural' means geographic areas that are located outside of standard metropolitan statistical areas.

"SEC. 755. ALLIED HEALTH AND OTHER DISCIPLINES.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants or contracts under this section to help entities fund activities of the type described in subsection (b).

"(b) ACTIVITIES.—Activities of the type described in this subsection include the following:

"(1) Assisting entities in meeting the costs associated with expanding or establishing programs that will increase the number of individuals trained in allied health professions. Programs and activities funded under this paragraph may include—

"(A) those that expand enrollments in allied health professions with the greatest shortages or whose services are most needed by the elderly;

"(B) those that provide rapid transition training programs in allied health fields to individuals who have baccalaureate degrees in health-related sciences;

"(C) those that establish community-based allied health training programs that link academic centers to rural clinical settings;

"(D) those that provide career advancement training for practicing allied health professionals;

"(E) those that expand or establish clinical training sites for allied health professionals in medically underserved or rural communities in order to increase the number of individuals trained;

"(F) those that develop curriculum that will emphasize knowledge and practice in the areas of prevention and health promotion, geriatrics, long-term care, home health and hospice care, and ethics;

"(G) those that expand or establish interdisciplinary training programs that promote the effectiveness of allied health practitioners in geriatric assessment and the rehabilitation of the elderly;

"(H) those that expand or establish demonstration centers to emphasize innovative models to link allied health clinical practice, education, and research;

"(I) those that provide financial assistance (in the form of traineeships) to students who are participants in any such program; and

"(i) who plan to pursue a career in an allied health field that has a demonstrated personnel shortage; and

"(ii) who agree upon completion of the training program to practice in a medically underserved community;

that shall be utilized to assist in the payment of all or part of the costs associated with tuition, fees and such other stipends as the Secretary may consider necessary; and

"(J) those to meet the costs of projects to plan, develop, and operate or maintain graduate programs in behavioral and mental health practice.

"(2) Planning and implementing projects in preventive and primary care training for podiatric physicians in approved or provisionally approved residency programs that shall provide financial assistance in the form of traineeships to residents who participate

in such projects and who plan to specialize in primary care.

"(3) Carrying out demonstration projects in which chiropractors and physicians collaborate to identify and provide effective treatment for spinal and lower-back conditions.

"SEC. 756. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON INTERDISCIPLINARY, COMMUNITY-BASED LINKAGES.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on Interdisciplinary, Community-Based Linkages (in this section referred to as the 'Advisory Committee').

"(b) COMPOSITION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall determine the appropriate number of individuals to serve on the Advisory Committee. Such individuals shall not be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

"(2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Committee from among individuals who are health professionals from schools of the types described in sections 751(a)(1)(A), 751(a)(1)(B), 753(b), 754(3)(A), and 755(b). In making such appointments, the Secretary shall ensure a fair balance between the health professions, that at least 75 percent of the members of the Advisory Committee are health professionals, a broad geographic representation of members and a balance between urban and rural members. Members shall be appointed based on their competence, interest, and knowledge of the mission of the profession involved.

"(3) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—In appointing the members of the Advisory Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall ensure the adequate representation of women and minorities.

"(c) TERMS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A member of the Advisory Committee shall be appointed for a term of 3 years, except that of the members first appointed—

"(A) 1/3 of the members shall serve for a term of 1 year;

"(B) 1/3 of the members shall serve for a term of 2 years; and

"(C) 1/3 of the members shall serve for a term of 3 years.

"(2) VACANCIES.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Committee shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall be subject to any conditions which applied with respect to the original appointment.

"(B) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

"(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee shall—

"(1) provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary concerning policy and program development and other matters of significance concerning the activities under this part; and

"(2) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Secretary, and the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report describing the activities of the Committee, including findings and recommendations made by the Committee concerning the activities under this part.

"(e) MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS.—

"(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Committee shall meet not less than 3 times each year. Such meetings shall be held jointly with

other related entities established under this title where appropriate.

"(2) DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 14 days prior to the convening of a meeting under paragraph (1), the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available an agenda of the matters to be considered by the Advisory Committee at such meeting. At any such meeting, the Advisory Council shall distribute materials with respect to the issues to be addressed at the meeting. Not later than 30 days after the adjourning of such a meeting, the Advisory Committee shall prepare and make available a summary of the meeting and any actions taken by the Committee based upon the meeting.

"(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—

"(1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Advisory Committee shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Committee.

"(2) EXPENSES.—The members of the Advisory Committee shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Committee.

"(g) FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall apply to the Advisory Committee under this section only to the extent that the provisions of such Act do not conflict with the requirements of this section.

"SEC. 757. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part, \$55,600,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

"(b) ALLOCATION.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Of the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall make available—

"(A) not less than \$28,587,000 for awards of grants and contracts under section 751;

"(B) not less than \$3,765,000 for awards of grants and contracts under section 752, of which not less than 50 percent of such amount shall be made available for centers described in subsection (a)(1) of such section; and

"(C) not less than \$22,631,000 for awards of grants and contracts under sections 753, 754, and 755.

"(2) RATABLE REDUCTION.—If amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for any fiscal year are less than the amount required to comply with paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ratably reduce the amount to be made available under each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of such paragraph accordingly.

"(3) INCREASE IN AMOUNTS.—If amounts appropriated for a fiscal year under subsection (a) exceed the amount authorized under such subsection for such fiscal year, the Secretary may increase the amount to be made available for programs and activities under this part without regard to the amounts specified in each of subparagraphs (A) through (C) of paragraph (2).

"(c) OBLIGATION OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS.—

"(1) AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTER PROGRAMS.—Of the amounts made available under subsection (b)(1)(A) for each fiscal year, the Secretary may obligate for awards under section 751(a)(2)—

"(A) not less than 23 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 1998;

"(B) not less than 30 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 1999;

“(C) not less than 35 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 2000;

“(D) not less than 40 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 2001; and

“(E) not less than 45 percent of such amounts in fiscal year 2002.

“(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that—

“(A) every State have an area health education center program in effect under this section; and

“(B) the ratio of Federal funding for the model program under section 751(a)(2) should increase over time and that Federal funding for other awards under this section shall decrease so that the national program will become entirely comprised of programs that are funded at least 50 percent by State and local partners.”.

SEC. 104. HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended to read as follows:

“PART E—HEALTH PROFESSIONS AND PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE

“Subpart 1—Health Professions Workforce Information and Analysis

“SEC. 761. HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE INFORMATION AND ANALYSIS.

“(a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to—

“(1) provide for the development of information describing the health professions workforce and the analysis of workforce related issues; and

“(2) provide necessary information for decision-making regarding future directions in health professions and nursing programs in response to societal and professional needs.

“(b) GRANTS OR CONTRACTS.—The Secretary may award grants or contracts to State or local governments, health professions schools, schools of nursing, academic health centers, community-based health facilities, and other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities to provide for—

“(1) targeted information collection and analysis activities related to the purposes described in subsection (a);

“(2) research on high priority workforce questions;

“(3) the development of a non-Federal analytic and research infrastructure related to the purposes described in subsection (a); and

“(4) the conduct of program evaluation and assessment.

“(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section, \$750,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

“(2) RESERVATION.—Of the amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve not less than \$600,000 for conducting health professions research and for carrying out data collection and analysis in accordance with section 792.

“(3) AVAILABILITY OF ADDITIONAL FUNDS.—Amounts otherwise appropriated for programs or activities under this title may be used for activities under subsection (b) with respect to the programs or activities from which such amounts were made available.”.

(b) COUNCIL ON GRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION.—Section 301 of the Health Professions Education Extension Amendments of 1992 (Public Law 102-408) is amended—

(1) in subsection (j), by striking “1995” and inserting “2002”;

(2) in subsection (k), by striking “1995” and inserting “2002”;

(3) by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(1) FUNDING.—Amounts otherwise appropriated under this title may be utilized by

the Secretary to support the activities of the Council.”;

(4) by transferring such section to part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by subsection (a));

(5) by redesignating such section as section 762; and

(6) by inserting such section after section 761.

SEC. 105. PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT.

Part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (as amended by section 104) is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“Subpart 2—Public Health Workforce

“SEC. 765. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants or contracts to eligible entities to increase the number of individuals in the public health workforce, to enhance the quality of such workforce, and to enhance the ability of the workforce to meet national, State, and local health care needs.

“(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under subsection (a) an entity shall—

“(1) be—

“(A) a health professions school, including an accredited school or program of public health, health administration, preventive medicine, or dental public health or a school providing health management programs;

“(B) an academic health center;

“(C) a State or local government; or

“(D) any other appropriate public or private nonprofit entity; and

“(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(c) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants or contracts under this section the Secretary may grant a preference to entities—

“(1) serving individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (including underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities); and

“(2) graduating large proportions of individuals who serve in underserved communities.

“(d) ACTIVITIES.—Amounts provided under a grant or contract awarded under this section may be used for—

“(1) the costs of planning, developing, or operating demonstration training programs;

“(2) faculty development;

“(3) trainee support;

“(4) technical assistance;

“(5) to meet the costs of projects—

“(A) to plan and develop new residency training programs and to maintain or improve existing residency training programs in preventive medicine and dental public health, that have available full-time faculty members with training and experience in the fields of preventive medicine and dental public health; and

“(B) to provide financial assistance to residency trainees enrolled in such programs;

“(6) the retraining of existing public health workers as well as for increasing the supply of new practitioners to address priority public health, preventive medicine, public health dentistry, and health administration needs;

“(7) preparing public health professionals for employment at the State and community levels; or

“(8) other activities that may produce outcomes that are consistent with the purposes of this section

“(e) TRAINEESHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to amounts used under this section for the training of health professionals, such training programs shall be designed to—

“(A) make public health education more accessible to the public and private health workforce;

“(B) increase the relevance of public health academic preparation to public health practice in the future;

“(C) provide education or training for students from traditional on-campus programs in practice-based sites; or

“(D) develop educational methods and distance-based approaches or technology that address adult learning requirements and increase knowledge and skills related to community-based cultural diversity in public health education.

“(2) SEVERE SHORTAGE DISCIPLINES.—

Amounts provided under grants or contracts under this section may be used for the operation of programs designed to award traineeships to students in accredited schools of public health who enter educational programs in fields where there is a severe shortage of public health professionals, including epidemiology, biostatistics, environmental health, toxicology, public health nursing, nutrition, preventive medicine, maternal and child health, and behavioral and mental health professions.

“SEC. 766. PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINING CENTERS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants or contracts for the operation of public health training centers.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A public health training center shall be an accredited school of public health, or another public or nonprofit private institution accredited for the provision of graduate or specialized training in public health, that plans, develops, operates, and evaluates projects that are in furtherance of the goals established by the Secretary for the year 2000 in the areas of preventive medicine, health promotion and disease prevention, or improving access to and quality of health services in medically underserved communities.

“(2) PREFERENCE.—In awarding grants or contracts under this section the Secretary shall give preference to accredited schools of public health.

“(c) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—With respect to a public health training center, an award may not be made under subsection (a) unless the program agrees that it—

“(1) will establish or strengthen field placements for students in public or nonprofit private health agencies or organizations;

“(2) will involve faculty members and students in collaborative projects to enhance public health services to medically underserved communities;

“(3) will specifically designate a geographic area or medically underserved population to be served by the center that shall be in a location removed from the main location of the teaching facility of the school that is participating in the program with such center; and

“(4) will assess the health personnel needs of the area to be served by the center and assist in the planning and development of training programs to meet such needs.

“SEC. 767. PUBLIC HEALTH TRAINEESHIPS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to accredited schools of public health, and to other public or nonprofit private institutions accredited for the provision of graduate or specialized training in public health, for the purpose of assisting such schools and institutions in providing traineeships to individuals described in subsection (b)(3).

“(b) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of any grant under this section shall be determined by the Secretary.

“(2) USE OF GRANT.—Traineeships awarded under grants made under subsection (a) shall provide for tuition and fees and such stipends and allowances (including travel and subsistence expenses and dependency allowances) for the trainees as the Secretary may deem necessary.

“(3) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—The individuals referred to in subsection (a) are individuals who are pursuing a course of study in a health professions field in which there is a severe shortage of health professionals (which fields include the fields of epidemiology, environmental health, biostatistics, toxicology, nutrition, and maternal and child health).

“SEC. 768. PREVENTIVE MEDICINE; DENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to and enter into contracts with schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, public health, and dentistry to meet the costs of projects—

“(1) to plan and develop new residency training programs and to maintain or improve existing residency training programs in preventive medicine and dental public health; and

“(2) to provide financial assistance to residency trainees enrolled in such programs.

“(b) ADMINISTRATION.—

“(1) AMOUNT.—The amount of any grant under subsection (a) shall be determined by the Secretary.

“(2) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible for a grant under subsection (a), the applicant must demonstrate to the Secretary that it has or will have available full-time faculty members with training and experience in the fields of preventive medicine or dental public health and support from other faculty members trained in public health and other relevant specialties and disciplines.

“(3) OTHER FUNDS.—Schools of medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, and public health may use funds committed by State, local, or county public health officers as matching amounts for Federal grant funds for residency training programs in preventive medicine.

“SEC. 769. HEALTH ADMINISTRATION TRAINEESHIPS AND SPECIAL PROJECTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants to State or local governments (that have in effect preventive medical and dental public health residency programs) or public or nonprofit private educational entities (including graduate schools of social work and business schools that have health management programs) that offer a program described in subsection (b)—

“(1) to provide traineeships for students enrolled in such a program; and

“(2) to assist accredited programs health administration in the development or improvement of programs to prepare students for employment with public or nonprofit private entities.

“(b) RELEVANT PROGRAMS.—The program referred to in subsection (a) is an accredited program in health administration, hospital administration, or health policy analysis and planning, which program is accredited by a body or bodies approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education and which meets such other quality standards as the Secretary of Health and Human Services by regulation may prescribe.

“(c) PREFERENCE IN MAKING GRANTS.—In making grants under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give preference to qualified applicants that meet the following conditions:

“(1) Not less than 25 percent of the graduates of the applicant are engaged in full-time practice settings in medically underserved communities.

“(2) The applicant recruits and admits students from medically underserved communities.

“(3) For the purpose of training students, the applicant has established relationships with public and nonprofit providers of health care in the community involved.

“(4) In training students, the applicant emphasizes employment with public or nonprofit private entities.

“(d) CERTAIN PROVISIONS REGARDING TRAINEESHIPS.—

“(1) USE OF GRANT.—Traineeships awarded under grants made under subsection (a) shall provide for tuition and fees and such stipends and allowances (including travel and subsistence expenses and dependency allowances) for the trainees as the Secretary may deem necessary.

“(2) PREFERENCE FOR CERTAIN STUDENTS.—Each entity applying for a grant under subsection (a) for traineeships shall assure to the satisfaction of the Secretary that the entity will give priority to awarding the traineeships to students who demonstrate a commitment to employment with public or nonprofit private entities in the fields with respect to which the traineeships are awarded.

“SEC. 770. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of carrying out this subpart, there is authorized to be appropriated \$9,100,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

“(b) LIMITATION REGARDING CERTAIN PROGRAM.—In obligating amounts appropriated under subsection (a), the Secretary may not obligate more than 30 percent for carrying out section 767.”

SEC. 106. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) Part F of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295 et seq.) is repealed.

(2) Part G of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295j et seq.) is amended—

(A) by redesignating such part as part F;

(B) in section 791 (42 U.S.C. 295j)—

(i) by striking subsection (b); and

(ii) redesignating subsection (c) as subsection (b);

(C) by repealing section 793 (42 U.S.C. 295l);

(D) by repealing section 798;

(E) by redesignating section 799 as section 799B; and

(F) by inserting after section 794, the following new sections:

“SEC. 796. APPLICATION.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under this title, an eligible entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application that meets the requirements of this section, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

“(b) PLAN.—An application submitted under this section shall contain the plan of the applicant for carrying out a project with amounts received under this title. Such plan shall be consistent with relevant Federal, State, or regional health professions program plans.

“(c) PERFORMANCE OUTCOME STANDARDS.—An application submitted under this section shall contain a specification by the applicant entity of performance outcome standards that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will be measured against. Such standards shall address relevant health workforce needs that the project will meet. The recipient of a grant or contract under this section shall meet the standards set forth in the grant or contract application.

“(d) LINKAGES.—An application submitted under this section shall contain a description of the linkages with relevant educational

and health care entities, including training programs for other health professionals as appropriate, that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will establish. To the extent practicable, grantees under this section shall establish linkages with health care providers who provide care for underserved communities and populations.

“SEC. 797. USE OF FUNDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Amounts provided under a grant or contract awarded under this title may be used for training program development and support, faculty development, model demonstrations, trainee support including tuition, books, program fees and reasonable living expenses during the period of training, technical assistance, workforce analysis, dissemination of information, and exploring new policy directions, as appropriate to meet recognized health workforce objectives, in accordance with this title.

“(b) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—With respect to activities for which a grant awarded under this title is to be expended, the entity shall agree to maintain expenditures of non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the entity for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the entity receives such a grant.

“SEC. 798. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

“The Secretary may require that an entity that applies for a grant or contract under this title provide non-Federal matching funds, as appropriate, to ensure the institutional commitment of the entity to the projects funded under the grant. As determined by the Secretary, such non-Federal matching funds may be provided directly or through donations from public or private entities and may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

“SEC. 799. GENERALLY APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.

“(a) AWARDING OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.—The Secretary shall ensure that grants and contracts under this title are awarded on a competitive basis, as appropriate, to carry out innovative demonstration projects or provide for strategic workforce supplementation activities as needed to meet health workforce goals and in accordance with this title. Contracts may be entered into under this title with public or private entities as may be necessary.

“(b) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Unless specifically required otherwise in this title, the Secretary shall accept applications for grants or contracts under this title from health professions schools, academic health centers, State or local governments, or other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities for funding and participation in health professions and nursing training activities. The Secretary may accept applications from for-profit private entities if determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“(c) INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Recipients of grants and contracts under this title shall meet information requirements as specified by the Secretary.

“(2) DATA COLLECTION.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure that, with respect to any data collection required under this title, such data is collected in a manner that takes into account age, sex, race, and ethnicity.

“(3) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to permit the use of amounts appropriated under this title to be used for data collection purposes.

“(4) EVALUATIONS.—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure the annual evaluation of programs and projects operated by recipients of grants or contracts under this title. Such procedures shall ensure that continued funding for such programs and

projects will be conditioned upon a demonstration that satisfactory progress has been made by the program or project in meeting the objectives of the program or project.

“(d) TRAINING PROGRAMS.—Training programs conducted with amounts received under this title shall meet applicable accreditation and quality standards.

“(e) DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, the period during which payments are made to the entity under the award may not exceed 5 years. The provision of payments under the award shall be subject to annual approval by the Secretary of the payments and subject to the availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to make the payments. This paragraph may not be construed as limiting the number of awards under the program involved that may be made to the entity.

“(2) LIMITATION.—In the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, paragraph (1) shall apply only to the extent not inconsistent with any other provision of this title that relates to the period during which payments may be made under the award.

“(f) PEER REVIEW REGARDING CERTAIN PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each application for a grant under this title, except any scholarship or loan program, including those under sections 701, 721, or 723, shall be submitted to a peer review group for an evaluation of the merits of the proposals made in the application. The Secretary may not approve such an application unless a peer review group has recommended the application for approval.

“(2) COMPOSITION.—Each peer review group under this subsection shall be composed principally of individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government. In providing for the establishment of peer review groups and procedures, the Secretary shall ensure sex, racial, ethnic, and geographic balance among the membership of such groups.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—This subsection shall be carried out by the Secretary acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

“(g) PREFERENCE OR PRIORITY CONSIDERATIONS.—In considering a preference or priority for funding which is based on outcome measures for an eligible entity under this title, the Secretary may also consider the future ability of the eligible entity to meet the outcome preference or priority through improvements in the eligible entity's program design.

“(h) ANALYTIC ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that—

“(1) cross-cutting workforce analytical activities are carried out as part of the workforce information and analysis activities under section 761; and

“(2) discipline-specific workforce information and analytical activities are carried out as part of—

“(A) the community-based linkage program under part D; and

“(B) the health workforce development program under subpart 2 of part E.

“(i) OSTEOPATHIC SCHOOLS.—For purposes of this title, any reference to—

“(1) medical schools shall include osteopathic medical schools; and

“(2) medical students shall include osteopathic medical students.

“SEC. 799A. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

“Funds appropriated under this title may be used by the Secretary to provide technical assistance in relation to any of the authorities under this title.”

(b) PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AS MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS.—Section 792(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295k(a)) is amended by inserting “professional counselors,” after “clinical psychologists.”

SEC. 107. PREFERENCE IN CERTAIN PROGRAMS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 791 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295j), as amended by section 105(a)(2)(B), is further amended by adding at the end thereof the following subsection:

“(c) EXCEPTIONS FOR NEW PROGRAMS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To permit new programs to compete equitably for funding under this section, those new programs that meet at least 4 of the criteria described in paragraph (3) shall qualify for a funding preference under this section.

“(2) DEFINITION.—As used in this subsection, the term ‘new program’ means any program that has graduated less than three classes. Upon graduating at least three classes, a program shall have the capability to provide the information necessary to qualify the program for the general funding preferences described in subsection (a).

“(3) CRITERIA.—The criteria referred to in paragraph (1) are the following:

“(A) The mission statement of the program identifies a specific purpose of the program as being the preparation of health professionals to serve underserved populations.

“(B) The curriculum of the program includes content which will help to prepare practitioners to serve underserved populations.

“(C) Substantial clinical training experience is required under the program in medically underserved communities.

“(D) A minimum of 20 percent of the clinical faculty of the program spend at least 50 percent of their time providing or supervising care in medically underserved communities.

“(E) The entire program or a substantial portion of the program is physically located in a medically underserved community.

“(F) Student assistance, which is linked to service in medically underserved communities following graduation, is available to the students in the program.

“(G) The program provides a placement mechanism for deploying graduates to medically underserved communities.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 791(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295j(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “sections 747” and all that follows through “767” and inserting “sections 747 and 750”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “under section 798(a)”.

SEC. 108. DEFINITIONS.

(a) GRADUATE PROGRAM IN BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE.—Section 799B(1)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p(1)(D)) (as so redesignated by section 106(a)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) by inserting “behavioral health and” before “mental”; and

(2) by inserting “behavioral health and mental health practice,” before “clinical”.

(b) PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AS A BEHAVIORAL AND MENTAL HEALTH PRACTICE.—Section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) (as so redesignated by section 106(a)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (C)—

(i) by inserting “and ‘graduate program in professional counseling’” after “graduate program in marriage and family therapy”; and

(ii) by inserting before the period the following: “and a concentration leading to a graduate degree in counseling”;

(B) in subparagraph (D), by inserting “professional counseling,” after “social work.”; and

(C) in subparagraph (E), by inserting “professional counseling,” after “social work.”; and

(2) in paragraph (5)(C), by inserting before the period the following: “or a degree in counseling or an equivalent degree”.

(c) MEDICALLY UNDERSERVED COMMUNITY.—Section 799B(6) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p(6)) (as so redesignated by section 105(a)(2)(E)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or” at the end thereof;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(D) is designated by a State Governor (in consultation with the medical community) as a shortage area or medically underserved community.”.

(d) PROGRAMS FOR THE TRAINING OF PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS.—Paragraph (3) of section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) (as so redesignated by section 105(a)(2)(E)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) The term ‘program for the training of physician assistants’ means an educational program that—

“(A) has as its objective the education of individuals who will, upon completion of their studies in the program, be qualified to provide primary care under the supervision of a physician;

“(B) extends for at least one academic year and consists of—

“(i) supervised clinical practice; and

“(ii) at least four months (in the aggregate) of classroom instruction, directed toward preparing students to deliver health care;

“(C) has an enrollment of not less than eight students; and

“(D) trains students in primary care, disease prevention, health promotion, geriatric medicine, and home health care.”.

(e) PSYCHOLOGIST.—Section 799B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295p) (as so redesignated by section 105(a)(2)(E)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) The term ‘psychologist’ means an individual who—

“(A) holds a doctoral degree in psychology; and

“(B) is licensed or certified on the basis of the doctoral degree in psychology, by the State in which the individual practices, at the independent practice level of psychology to furnish diagnostic, assessment, preventive, and therapeutic services directly to individuals.”.

SEC. 109. TECHNICAL AMENDMENT ON NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.

Section 338B(b)(1)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254l-1(b)(1)(B)) is amended by striking “or other health profession” and inserting “behavioral and mental health, or other health profession”.

SEC. 110. SAVINGS PROVISION.

In the case of any authority for making awards of grants or contracts that is terminated by the amendments made by this subtitle, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may, notwithstanding the termination of the authority, continue in effect any grant or contract made under the authority that is in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the duration of any such grant or contract not exceeding the period determined by the Secretary in first approving such financial assistance, or in approving the most recent request made (before the date of such enactment) for continuation of such assistance, as the case may be.

Subtitle B—Nursing Workforce Development**SEC. 121. SHORT TITLE.**

This subtitle may be cited as the "Nursing Education and Practice Improvement Act of 1998".

SEC. 122. PURPOSE.

It is the purpose of this subtitle to restructure the nurse education authorities of title VIII of the Public Health Service Act to permit a comprehensive, flexible, and effective approach to Federal support for nursing workforce development.

SEC. 123. AMENDMENTS TO PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.

Title VIII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 296k et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the title heading and all that follows except for subpart II of part B and sections 846 and 855; and inserting the following:

"TITLE VIII—NURSING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT";

(2) in subpart II of part B, by striking the subpart heading and inserting the following:

"PART E—STUDENT LOANS";

(3) by striking section 837;

(4) by inserting after the title heading the following new parts:

"PART A—GENERAL PROVISIONS

"SEC. 801. DEFINITIONS.

"As used in this title:

"(1) **ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.**—The term 'eligible entities' means schools of nursing, nursing centers, academic health centers, State or local governments, and other public or private nonprofit entities determined appropriate by the Secretary that submit to the Secretary an application in accordance with section 802.

"(2) **SCHOOL OF NURSING.**—The term 'school of nursing' means a collegiate, associate degree, or diploma school of nursing in a State.

"(3) **COLLEGIATE SCHOOL OF NURSING.**—The term 'collegiate school of nursing' means a department, division, or other administrative unit in a college or university which provides primarily or exclusively a program of education in professional nursing and related subjects leading to the degree of bachelor of arts, bachelor of science, bachelor of nursing, or to an equivalent degree, or to a graduate degree in nursing, or to an equivalent degree, and including advanced training related to such program of education provided by such school, but only if such program, or such unit, college or university is accredited.

"(4) **ASSOCIATE DEGREE SCHOOL OF NURSING.**—The term 'associate degree school of nursing' means a department, division, or other administrative unit in a junior college, community college, college, or university which provides primarily or exclusively a two-year program of education in professional nursing and allied subjects leading to an associate degree in nursing or to an equivalent degree, but only if such program, or such unit, college, or university is accredited.

"(5) **DIPLOMA SCHOOL OF NURSING.**—The term 'diploma school of nursing' means a school affiliated with a hospital or university, or an independent school, which provides primarily or exclusively a program of education in professional nursing and allied subjects leading to a diploma or to equivalent indicia that such program has been satisfactorily completed, but only if such program, or such affiliated school or such hospital or university or such independent school is accredited.

"(6) **ACCREDITED.**—

"(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the term 'accredited' when applied to any program of nurse education

means a program accredited by a recognized body or bodies, or by a State agency, approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education and when applied to a hospital, school, college, or university (or a unit thereof) means a hospital, school, college, or university (or a unit thereof) which is accredited by a recognized body or bodies, or by a State agency, approved for such purpose by the Secretary of Education. For the purpose of this paragraph, the Secretary of Education shall publish a list of recognized accrediting bodies, and of State agencies, which the Secretary of Education determines to be reliable authority as to the quality of education offered.

"(B) **NEW PROGRAMS.**—A new program of nursing that, by reason of an insufficient period of operation, is not, at the time of the submission of an application for a grant or contract under this title, eligible for accreditation by such a recognized body or bodies or State agency, shall be deemed accredited for purposes of this title if the Secretary of Education finds, after consultation with the appropriate accreditation body or bodies, that there is reasonable assurance that the program will meet the accreditation standards of such body or bodies prior to the beginning of the academic year following the normal graduation date of students of the first entering class in such a program.

"(7) **NONPROFIT.**—The term 'nonprofit' as applied to any school, agency, organization, or institution means one which is a corporation or association, or is owned and operated by one or more corporations or associations, no part of the net earnings of which inures, or may lawfully inure, to the benefit of any private shareholder or individual.

"(8) **STATE.**—The term 'State' means a State, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, or the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

"SEC. 802. APPLICATION.

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—To be eligible to receive a grant or contract under this title, an eligible entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary an application that meets the requirements of this section, at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

"(b) **PLAN.**—An application submitted under this section shall contain the plan of the applicant for carrying out a project with amounts received under this title. Such plan shall be consistent with relevant Federal, State, or regional program plans.

"(c) **PERFORMANCE OUTCOME STANDARDS.**—An application submitted under this section shall contain a specification by the applicant entity of performance outcome standards that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will be measured against. Such standards shall address relevant national nursing needs that the project will meet. The recipient of a grant or contract under this section shall meet the standards set forth in the grant or contract application.

"(d) **LINKAGES.**—An application submitted under this section shall contain a description of the linkages with relevant educational and health care entities, including training programs for other health professionals as appropriate, that the project to be funded under the grant or contract will establish.

"SEC. 803. USE OF FUNDS.

"(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Amounts provided under a grant or contract awarded under this title may be used for training program development and support, faculty development, model demonstrations, trainee support including tuition, books, program fees and reasonable living expenses during the period of training, technical assistance, workforce

analysis, and dissemination of information, as appropriate to meet recognized nursing objectives, in accordance with this title.

"(b) **MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.**—With respect to activities for which a grant awarded under this title is to be expended, the entity shall agree to maintain expenditures of non-Federal amounts for such activities at a level that is not less than the level of such expenditures maintained by the entity for the fiscal year preceding the fiscal year for which the entity receives such a grant.

"SEC. 804. MATCHING REQUIREMENT.

"The Secretary may require that an entity that applies for a grant or contract under this title provide non-Federal matching funds, as appropriate, to ensure the institutional commitment of the entity to the projects funded under the grant. Such non-Federal matching funds may be provided directly or through donations from public or private entities and may be in cash or in-kind, fairly evaluated, including plant, equipment, or services.

"SEC. 805. PREFERENCE.

"In awarding grants or contracts under this title, the Secretary shall give preference to applicants with projects that will substantially benefit rural or underserved populations, or help meet public health nursing needs in State or local health departments.

"SEC. 806. GENERALLY APPLICABLE PROVISIONS.

"(a) **AWARDING OF GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.**—The Secretary shall ensure that grants and contracts under this title are awarded on a competitive basis, as appropriate, to carry out innovative demonstration projects or provide for strategic workforce supplementation activities as needed to meet national nursing service goals and in accordance with this title. Contracts may be entered into under this title with public or private entities as determined necessary by the Secretary.

"(b) **INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Recipients of grants and contracts under this title shall meet information requirements as specified by the Secretary.

"(2) **EVALUATIONS.**—The Secretary shall establish procedures to ensure the annual evaluation of programs and projects operated by recipients of grants under this title. Such procedures shall ensure that continued funding for such programs and projects will be conditioned upon a demonstration that satisfactory progress has been made by the program or project in meeting the objectives of the program or project.

"(c) **TRAINING PROGRAMS.**—Training programs conducted with amounts received under this title shall meet applicable accreditation and quality standards.

"(d) **DURATION OF ASSISTANCE.**—

"(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), in the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, the period during which payments are made to the entity under the award may not exceed 5 years. The provision of payments under the award shall be subject to annual approval by the Secretary of the payments and subject to the availability of appropriations for the fiscal year involved to make the payments. This paragraph may not be construed as limiting the number of awards under the program involved that may be made to the entity.

"(2) **LIMITATION.**—In the case of an award to an entity of a grant, cooperative agreement, or contract under this title, paragraph (1) shall apply only to the extent not inconsistent with any other provision of this title that relates to the period during which payments may be made under the award.

"(e) **PEER REVIEW REGARDING CERTAIN PROGRAMS.**—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Each application for a grant under this title, except advanced nurse traineeship grants under section 811(a)(2), shall be submitted to a peer review group for an evaluation of the merits of the proposals made in the application. The Secretary may not approve such an application unless a peer review group has recommended the application for approval.

“(2) COMPOSITION.—Each peer review group under this subsection shall be composed principally of individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government. In providing for the establishment of peer review groups and procedures, the Secretary shall, except as otherwise provided, ensure sex, racial, ethnic, and geographic representation among the membership of such groups.

“(3) ADMINISTRATION.—This subsection shall be carried out by the Secretary acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration.

“(f) ANALYTIC ACTIVITIES.—The Secretary shall ensure that—

“(1) cross-cutting workforce analytical activities are carried out as part of the workforce information and analysis activities under this title; and

“(2) discipline-specific workforce information is developed and analytical activities are carried out as part of—

“(A) the advanced education nursing activities under part B;

“(B) the workforce diversity activities under part C; and

“(C) basic nursing education and practice activities under part D.

“(g) STATE AND REGIONAL PRIORITIES.—Activities under grants or contracts under this title shall, to the extent practicable, be consistent with related Federal, State, or regional nursing professions program plans and priorities.

“(h) FILING OF APPLICATIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Applications for grants or contracts under this title may be submitted by health professions schools, schools of nursing, academic health centers, State or local governments, or other appropriate public or private nonprofit entities as determined appropriate by the Secretary in accordance with this title.

“(2) FOR PROFIT ENTITIES.—Notwithstanding paragraph (1), a for-profit entity may be eligible for a grant or contract under this title as determined appropriate by the Secretary.

“SEC. 807. TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.

“Funds appropriated under this title may be used by the Secretary to provide technical assistance in relation to any of the authorities under this title.

“PART B—NURSE PRACTITIONERS, NURSE MIDWIVES, NURSE ANESTHETISTS, AND OTHER ADVANCED EDUCATION NURSES

“SEC. 811. ADVANCED EDUCATION NURSING GRANTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities to meet the costs of—

“(1) projects that support the enhancement of advanced nursing education and practice; and

“(2) traineeships for individuals in advanced nursing education programs.

“(b) DEFINITION OF ADVANCED EDUCATION NURSES.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘advanced education nurses’ means individuals trained in advanced degree programs including individuals in combined R.N./Master’s degree programs, post-nursing master’s certificate programs, or, in the case of nurse midwives, in certificate programs in existence on the date that is one day prior to the date of enactment of this section, to serve as nurse practitioners, clinical nurse

specialists, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, nurse educators, nurse administrators, or public health nurses, or in other nurse specialties determined by the Secretary to require advanced education.

“(c) AUTHORIZED NURSE PRACTITIONER AND NURSE-MIDWIFERY PROGRAMS.—Nurse practitioner and nurse midwifery programs eligible for support under this section are educational programs for registered nurses (irrespective of the type of school of nursing in which the nurses received their training) that—

“(1) meet guidelines prescribed by the Secretary; and

“(2) have as their objective the education of nurses who will upon completion of their studies in such programs, be qualified to effectively provide primary health care, including primary health care in homes and in ambulatory care facilities, long-term care facilities, acute care, and other health care settings.

“(d) AUTHORIZED NURSE ANESTHESIA PROGRAMS.—Nurse anesthesia programs eligible for support under this section are education programs that—

“(1) provide registered nurses with full-time anesthetist education; and

“(2) are accredited by the Council on Accreditation of Nurse Anesthesia Educational Programs.

“(e) OTHER AUTHORIZED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS.—The Secretary shall prescribe guidelines as appropriate for other advanced nurse education programs eligible for support under this section.

“(f) TRAINEESHIPS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may not award a grant to an applicant under subsection (a) unless the applicant involved agrees that traineeships provided with the grant will only pay all or part of the costs of—

“(A) the tuition, books, and fees of the program of advanced nurse education with respect to which the traineeship is provided; and

“(B) the reasonable living expenses of the individual during the period for which the traineeship is provided.

“(2) DOCTORAL PROGRAMS.—The Secretary may not obligate more than 10 percent of the traineeships under subsection (a) for individuals in doctorate degree programs.

“(3) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—In making awards of grants and contracts under subsection (a)(2), the Secretary shall give special consideration to an eligible entity that agrees to expend the award to train advanced education nurses who will practice in health professional shortage areas designated under section 332.

“PART C—INCREASING NURSING WORKFORCE DIVERSITY

“SEC. 821. WORKFORCE DIVERSITY GRANTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities to meet the costs of special projects to increase nursing education opportunities for individuals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds (including racial and ethnic minorities underrepresented among registered nurses) by providing student scholarships or stipends, pre-entry preparation, and retention activities.

“(b) GUIDANCE.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Secretary shall take into consideration the recommendations of the First, Second and Third Invitational Congresses for Minority Nurse Leaders on ‘Caring for the Emerging Majority,’ in 1992, 1993 and 1997, and consult with nursing associations including the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Black Nurses Association, the Na-

tional Association of Hispanic Nurses, the Association of Asian American and Pacific Islander Nurses, the Native American Indian and Alaskan Nurses Association, and the National Council of State Boards of Nursing.

“(c) REQUIRED INFORMATION AND CONDITIONS FOR AWARD RECIPIENTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Recipients of awards under this section may be required, where requested, to report to the Secretary concerning the annual admission, retention, and graduation rates for individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds and ethnic and racial minorities in the school or schools involved in the projects.

“(2) FALLING RATES.—If any of the rates reported under paragraph (1) fall below the average of the two previous years, the grant or contract recipient shall provide the Secretary with plans for immediately improving such rates.

“(3) INELIGIBILITY.—A recipient described in paragraph (2) shall be ineligible for continued funding under this section if the plan of the recipient fails to improve the rates within the 1-year period beginning on the date such plan is implemented.

“PART D—STRENGTHENING CAPACITY FOR BASIC NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

“SEC. 831. BASIC NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE GRANTS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may award grants to and enter into contracts with eligible entities for projects to strengthen capacity for basic nurse education and practice.

“(b) PRIORITY AREAS.—In awarding grants or contracts under this section the Secretary shall give priority to entities that will use amounts provided under such a grant or contract to enhance the educational mix and utilization of the basic nursing workforce by strengthening programs that provide basic nurse education, such as through—

“(1) establishing or expanding nursing practice arrangements in noninstitutional settings to demonstrate methods to improve access to primary health care in medically underserved communities;

“(2) providing care for underserved populations and other high-risk groups such as the elderly, individuals with HIV-AIDS, substance abusers, the homeless, and victims of domestic violence;

“(3) providing managed care, quality improvement, and other skills needed to practice in existing and emerging organized health care systems;

“(4) developing cultural competencies among nurses;

“(5) expanding the enrollment in baccalaureate nursing programs;

“(6) promoting career mobility for nursing personnel in a variety of training settings and cross training or specialty training among diverse population groups;

“(7) providing education in informatics, including distance learning methodologies; or

“(8) other priority areas as determined by the Secretary.”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“PART F—FUNDING

“SEC. 841. FUNDING.

“(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For the purpose of carrying out parts B, C, and D (subject to section 845(g)), there are authorized to be appropriated \$85,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.

“(b) ALLOCATIONS FOR FISCAL YEARS 1998 THROUGH 2002.—

“(1) NURSE PRACTITIONERS; NURSE MIDWIVES.—

“(A) FISCAL YEAR 1998.—Of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for fiscal

year 1998, the Secretary shall reserve not less than \$17,564,000 for making awards of grants and contracts under section 822 as such section was in effect for fiscal year 1998.

“(B) FISCAL YEARS 1999 THROUGH 2002.—Of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for fiscal year 1999 or any of the fiscal years 2000 through 2002, the Secretary, subject to subsection (d), shall reserve for the fiscal year involved, for making awards of grants and contracts under part B with respect to nurse practitioners and nurse midwives, not less than the percentage constituted by the ratio of the amount appropriated under section 822 as such section was in effect for fiscal year 1998 to the total of the amounts appropriated under this title for such fiscal year. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the Secretary, in determining the amount that has been reserved for the fiscal year involved, shall include any amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for the fiscal year that are obligated by the Secretary to continue in effect grants or contracts under section 822 as such section was in effect for fiscal year 1998.

“(2) NURSE ANESTHETISTS.—

“(A) FISCAL YEAR 1998.—Of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for fiscal year 1998, the Secretary shall reserve not less than \$2,761,000 for making awards of grants and contracts under section 831 as such section was in effect for fiscal year 1998.

“(B) FISCAL YEARS 1999 THROUGH 2002.—Of the amount appropriated under subsection (a) for fiscal year 1999 or any of the fiscal years 2000 through 2002, the Secretary, subject to subsection (d), shall reserve for the fiscal year involved, for making awards of grants and contracts under part B with respect to nurse anesthetists, not less than the percentage constituted by the ratio of the amount appropriated under section 831 as such section was in effect for fiscal year 1998 to the total of the amounts appropriated under this title for such fiscal year. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the Secretary, in determining the amount that has been reserved for the fiscal year involved, shall include any amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for the fiscal year that are obligated by the Secretary to continue in effect grants or contracts under section 831 as such section was in effect for fiscal year 1998.

“(C) ALLOCATIONS AFTER FISCAL YEAR 2002.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For fiscal year 2003 and subsequent fiscal years, amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for the fiscal year involved shall be allocated by the Secretary among parts B, C, and D (and programs within such parts) according to a methodology that is developed in accordance with paragraph (2). The Secretary shall enter into a contract with a public or private entity for the purpose of developing the methodology. The contract shall require that the development of the methodology be completed not later than February 1, 2002.

“(2) USE OF CERTAIN FACTORS.—The contract under paragraph (1) shall provide that the methodology under such paragraph will be developed in accordance with the following:

“(A) The methodology will take into account the need for and the distribution of health services among medically underserved populations, as determined according to the factors that apply under section 330(b)(3).

“(B) The methodology will take into account the need for and the distribution of health services in health professional shortage areas, as determined according to the factors that apply under section 332(b).

“(C) The methodology will take into account the need for and the distribution of

mental health services among medically underserved populations and in health professional shortage areas.

“(D) The methodology will be developed in consultation with individuals in the field of nursing, including registered nurses, nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, nurse anesthetists, clinical nurse specialists, nursing educators and educational institutions, nurse executives, pediatric nurse associates and practitioners, and women's health, obstetric, and neonatal nurses.

“(E) The methodology will take into account the following factors with respect to the States:

“(i) A provider population ratio equivalent to a managed care formula of 1/1,500 for primary care services.

“(ii) The use of whole rather than fractional counts in determining the number of health care providers.

“(iii) The counting of only employed health care providers in determining the number of health care providers.

“(iv) The number of families whose income is less than 200 percent of the official poverty line (as established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and revised by the Secretary in accordance with section 673(2) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1981).

“(v) The rate of infant mortality and the rate of low-birthweight births.

“(vi) The percentage of the general population constituted by individuals who are members or racial or ethnic minority groups, stated both by minority group and in the aggregate.

“(vii) The percentage of the general population constituted by individuals who are of Hispanic ethnicity.

“(viii) The number of individuals residing in health professional shortage areas, and the number of individuals who are members of medically underserved populations.

“(ix) The percentage of the general population constituted by elderly individuals.

“(x) The extent to which the populations served have a choice of providers.

“(xi) The impact of care on hospitalizations and emergency room use.

“(xii) The number of individuals who lack proficiency in speaking the English language.

“(xiii) Such additional factors as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the development of the methodology required in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, a report describing the methodology and explaining the effects of the methodology on the allocation among parts B, C, and D (and programs within such parts) of amounts appropriated under subsection (a) for the first fiscal year for which the methodology will be in effect. Such explanation shall include a comparison of the allocation for such fiscal year with the allocation made under this section for the preceding fiscal year.

“(d) USE OF METHODOLOGY BEFORE FISCAL YEAR 2003.—With respect to the fiscal years 1999 through 2002, if the report required in subsection (c)(3) is submitted in accordance with such subsection not later than 90 days before the beginning of such a fiscal year, the Secretary may for such year implement the methodology described in the report (rather than implementing the methodology in fiscal year 2003), in which case subsection (b) ceases to be in effect. The authority under the preceding sentence is subject to the condition that the fiscal year for which the methodology is implemented be the same fiscal year identified in such report as the

fiscal year for which the methodology will first be in effect.

“(e) AUTHORITY FOR USE OF ADDITIONAL FACTORS IN METHODOLOGY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall make the determinations specified in paragraph (2). For any fiscal year beginning after the first fiscal year for which the methodology under subsection (c)(1) is in effect, the Secretary may alter the methodology by including the information from such determinations as factors in the methodology.

“(2) RELEVANT DETERMINATIONS.—The determinations referred to in paragraph (1) are as follows:

“(A) The need for and the distribution of health services among populations for which it is difficult to determine the number of individuals who are in the population, such as homeless individuals; migratory and seasonal agricultural workers and their families; individuals infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, and individuals who abuse drugs.

“(B) In the case of a population for which the determinations under subparagraph (A) are made, the extent to which the population includes individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups and a specification of the skills needed to provide health services to such individuals in the language and the educational and cultural context that is most appropriate to the individuals.

“(C) Data, obtained from the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, on rates of morbidity and mortality among various populations (including data on the rates of maternal and infant mortality and data on the rates of low-birthweight births of living infants).

“(D) Data from the Health Plan Employer Data and Information Set, as appropriate.

“PART G—NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

“SEC. 845. NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL ON NURSE EDUCATION AND PRACTICE.

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory council to be known as the National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (in this section referred to as the ‘Advisory Council’).

“(b) COMPOSITION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Advisory Council shall be composed of

“(A) not less than 21, nor more than 23 individuals, who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government, appointed by the Secretary without regard to the Federal civil service laws, of which—

“(i) 2 shall be selected from full-time students enrolled in schools of nursing;

“(ii) 2 shall be selected from the general public;

“(iii) 2 shall be selected from practicing professional nurses; and

“(iv) 9 shall be selected from among the leading authorities in the various fields of nursing, higher, secondary education, and associate degree schools of nursing, and from representatives of advanced education nursing groups (such as nurse practitioners, nurse midwives, and nurse anesthetists), hospitals, and other institutions and organizations which provide nursing services; and

“(B) the Secretary (or the delegate of the Secretary (who shall be an ex officio member and shall serve as the Chairperson)).

“(2) APPOINTMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall appoint the members of the Advisory Council and each such member shall serve a 4 year term. In making such appointments, the Secretary shall ensure a fair balance between the nursing professions, a broad geographic representation of members and a balance between urban and rural members. Members shall be appointed based on

their competence, interest, and knowledge of the mission of the profession involved. A majority of the members shall be nurses.

“(3) MINORITY REPRESENTATION.—In appointing the members of the Advisory Council under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall ensure the adequate representation of minorities.

“(c) VACANCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A vacancy on the Advisory Council shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made and shall be subject to any conditions which applied with respect to the original appointment.

“(2) FILLING UNEXPIRED TERM.—An individual chosen to fill a vacancy shall be appointed for the unexpired term of the member replaced.

“(d) DUTIES.—The Advisory Council shall—

“(1) provide advice and recommendations to the Secretary and Congress concerning policy matters arising in the administration of this title, including the range of issues relating to the nurse workforce, education, and practice improvement;

“(2) provide advice to the Secretary and Congress in the preparation of general regulations and with respect to policy matters arising in the administration of this title, including the range of issues relating to nurse supply, education and practice improvement; and

“(3) not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this section, and annually thereafter, prepare and submit to the Secretary, the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives, a report describing the activities of the Council, including findings and recommendations made by the Council concerning the activities under this title.

“(e) MEETINGS AND DOCUMENTS.—

“(1) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Council shall meet not less than 2 times each year. Such meetings shall be held jointly with other related entities established under this title where appropriate.

“(2) DOCUMENTS.—Not later than 14 days prior to the convening of a meeting under paragraph (1), the Advisory Council shall prepare and make available an agenda of the matters to be considered by the Advisory Council at such meeting. At any such meeting, the Advisory Council shall distribute materials with respect to the issues to be addressed at the meeting. Not later than 30 days after the adjourning of such a meeting, the Advisory Council shall prepare and make available a summary of the meeting and any actions taken by the Council based upon the meeting.

“(f) COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES.—

“(1) COMPENSATION.—Each member of the Advisory Council shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which such member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Council. All members of the Council who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

“(2) EXPENSES.—The members of the Advisory Council shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for employees of agencies under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from their homes or regular places of business in the performance of services for the Council.

“(g) FUNDING.—Amounts appropriated under this title may be utilized by the Sec-

retary to support the nurse education and practice activities of the Council.

“(h) FACAs.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act shall apply to the Advisory Committee under this section only to the extent that the provisions of such Act do not conflict with the requirements of this section.”; and

(6) by redesignating section 855 as section 810, and transferring such section so as to appear after section 809 (as added by the amendment made by paragraph (5)).

SEC. 124. SAVINGS PROVISION.

In the case of any authority for making awards of grants or contracts that is terminated by the amendment made by section 123, the Secretary of Health and Human Services may, notwithstanding the termination of the authority, continue in effect any grant or contract made under the authority that is in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of this Act, subject to the duration of any such grant or contract not exceeding the period determined by the Secretary in first approving such financial assistance, or in approving the most recent request made (before the date of such enactment) for continuation of such assistance, as the case may be.

Subtitle C—Financial Assistance

CHAPTER 1—SCHOOL-BASED REVOLVING LOAN FUNDS

SEC. 131. PRIMARY CARE LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR SCHOOLS.—Section 723(b)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292s(b)(1)), as amended by section 2014(c)(2)(A)(ii) of Public Law 103-43 (107 Stat. 216), is amended by striking “3 years before” and inserting “4 years before”.

(b) NONCOMPLIANCE.—Section 723(a)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292s(a)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) NONCOMPLIANCE BY STUDENT.—Each agreement entered into with a student pursuant to paragraph (1) shall provide that, if the student fails to comply with such agreement, the loan involved will begin to accrue interest at a rate of 18 percent per year beginning on the date of such noncompliance.”.

(c) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 723 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292s) is amended—

(1) by striking subsection (c); and

(2) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (c).

SEC. 132. LOANS FOR DISADVANTAGED STUDENTS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 724(f)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292t(f)(1)) is amended by striking “\$15,000,000 for fiscal year 1993” and inserting “\$8,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002”.

(b) REPEAL.—Effective October 1, 2002, paragraph (1) of section 724(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292t(f)(1)) is repealed.

SEC. 133. STUDENT LOANS REGARDING SCHOOLS OF NURSING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 836(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297b(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end; and

(B) by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, and (C) such additional periods under the terms of paragraph (8) of this subsection”;

(3) in paragraph (7), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following paragraph:

“(8) pursuant to uniform criteria established by the Secretary, the repayment pe-

riod established under paragraph (2) for any student borrower who during the repayment period failed to make consecutive payments and who, during the last 12 months of the repayment period, has made at least 12 consecutive payments may be extended for a period not to exceed 10 years.”.

(b) MINIMUM MONTHLY PAYMENTS.—Section 836(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297b(g)) is amended by striking “\$15” and inserting “\$40”.

(c) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 836 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297b) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(1) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—

“(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to ensure that obligations to repay loans under this section are enforced without regard to any Federal or State statutory, regulatory, or administrative limitation on the period within which debts may be enforced.

“(2) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, no limitation shall terminate the period within which suit may be filed, a judgment may be enforced, or an offset, garnishment, or other action may be initiated or taken by a school of nursing that has an agreement with the Secretary pursuant to section 835 that is seeking the repayment of the amount due from a borrower on a loan made under this subpart after the default of the borrower on such loan.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be effective with respect to actions pending on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(d) BREACH OF AGREEMENTS.—Section 846 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297n) is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new subsection:

“(h) BREACH OF AGREEMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any program under this section under which an individual makes an agreement to provide health services for a period of time in accordance with such program in consideration of receiving an award of Federal funds regarding education as a nurse (including an award for the repayment of loans), the following applies if the agreement provides that this subsection is applicable:

“(A) In the case of a program under this section that makes an award of Federal funds for attending an accredited program of nursing (in this section referred to as a ‘nursing program’), the individual is liable to the Federal Government for the amount of such award (including amounts provided for expenses related to such attendance), and for interest on such amount at the maximum legal prevailing rate, if the individual—

“(i) fails to maintain an acceptable level of academic standing in the nursing program (as indicated by the program in accordance with requirements established by the Secretary);

“(ii) is dismissed from the nursing program for disciplinary reasons; or

“(iii) voluntarily terminates the nursing program.

“(B) The individual is liable to the Federal Government for the amount of such award (including amounts provided for expenses related to such attendance), and for interest on such amount at the maximum legal prevailing rate, if the individual fails to provide health services in accordance with the program under this section for the period of time applicable under the program.

“(2) WAIVER OR SUSPENSION OF LIABILITY.—In the case of an individual or health facility

making an agreement for purposes of paragraph (1), the Secretary shall provide for the waiver or suspension of liability under such subsection if compliance by the individual or the health facility, as the case may be, with the agreements involved is impossible, or would involve extreme hardship to the individual or facility, and if enforcement of the agreements with respect to the individual or facility would be unconscionable.

“(3) DATE CERTAIN FOR RECOVERY.—Subject to paragraph (2), any amount that the Federal Government is entitled to recover under paragraph (1) shall be paid to the United States not later than the expiration of the 3-year period beginning on the date the United States becomes so entitled.

“(4) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts recovered under paragraph (1) with respect to a program under this section shall be available for the purposes of such program, and shall remain available for such purposes until expended.”.

(e) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 839 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 297e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking the matter preceding paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(a) If a school terminates a loan fund established under an agreement pursuant to section 835(b), or if the Secretary for good cause terminates the agreement with the school, there shall be a capital distribution as follows:”; and

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “at the close of September 30, 1999,” and inserting “on the date of termination of the fund”; and

(2) in subsection (b), to read as follows:

“(b) If a capital distribution is made under subsection (a), the school involved shall, after such capital distribution, pay to the Secretary, not less often than quarterly, the same proportionate share of amounts received by the school in payment of principal or interest on loans made from the loan fund established under section 835(b) as determined by the Secretary under subsection (a).”.

SEC. 134. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) MAXIMUM STUDENT LOAN PROVISIONS AND MINIMUM PAYMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 722(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(a)(1)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103-43, is amended by striking “the sum of” and all that follows through the end thereof and inserting “the cost of attendance (including tuition, other reasonable educational expenses, and reasonable living costs) for that year at the educational institution attended by the student (as determined by such educational institution).”.

(2) THIRD AND FOURTH YEARS.—Section 722(a)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(a)(2)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103-43, is amended by striking “the amount \$2,500” and all that follows through “including such \$2,500” and inserting “the amount of the loan may, in the case of the third or fourth year of a student at a school of medicine or osteopathic medicine, be increased to the extent necessary”.

(3) REPAYMENT PERIOD.—Section 722(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(c)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103-43, is amended—

(A) in the subsection heading by striking “TEN-YEAR” and inserting “REPAYMENT”;

(B) by striking “ten-year period which begins” and inserting “period of not less than 10 years nor more than 25 years, at the discretion of the institution, which begins”; and

(C) by striking “such ten-year period” and inserting “such period”.

(4) MINIMUM PAYMENTS.—Section 722(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r(j)), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103-43, is amended by striking “\$15” and inserting “\$40”.

(b) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 722 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292r), as amended by section 2014(b)(1) of Public Law 103-43, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(m) ELIMINATION OF STATUTE OF LIMITATION FOR LOAN COLLECTIONS.—

“(1) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this subsection to ensure that obligations to repay loans under this section are enforced without regard to any Federal or State statutory, regulatory, or administrative limitation on the period within which debts may be enforced.

“(2) PROHIBITION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, no limitation shall terminate the period within which suit may be filed, a judgment may be enforced, or an offset, garnishment, or other action may be initiated or taken by a school that has an agreement with the Secretary pursuant to section 721 that is seeking the repayment of the amount due from a borrower on a loan made under this subpart after the default of the borrower on such loan.”.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by paragraph (1) shall be effective with respect to actions pending on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) DATE CERTAIN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.—Paragraph (2) of section 735(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292y(e)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) DATE CERTAIN FOR CONTRIBUTIONS.—Amounts described in paragraph (1) that are returned to the Secretary shall be obligated before the end of the succeeding fiscal year.”.

CHAPTER 2—INSURED HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOANS TO GRADUATE STUDENTS

SEC. 141. HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN PROGRAM.

(a) HEALTH EDUCATION ASSISTANCE LOAN DEFERMENT FOR BORROWERS PROVIDING HEALTH SERVICES TO INDIANS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 705(a)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292d(a)(2)(C)) is amended by striking “and (x)” and inserting “(x) not in excess of three years, during which the borrower is providing health care services to Indians through an Indian health program (as defined in section 108(a)(2)(A) of the Indian Health Care Improvement Act (25 U.S.C. 1616a(a)(2)(A)); and (xi)”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 705(a)(2)(C) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292d(a)(2)(C)) is further amended—

(A) in clause (xi) (as so redesignated) by striking “(ix)” and inserting “(x)”;

(B) in the matter following such clause (xi), by striking “(x)” and inserting “(xi)”.

(3) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this subsection shall apply with respect to services provided on or after the first day of the third month that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORT REQUIREMENT.—Section 709(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292h(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (4)(B), by adding “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(3) by striking paragraph (6).

(c) PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY.—

(1) LIMITATIONS ON LOANS.—Section 703(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.

292b(a)) is amended by striking “or clinical psychology” and inserting “or behavioral and mental health practice, including clinical psychology”.

(2) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE INSTITUTION.—Section 719(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292o(1)) is amended by striking “or clinical psychology” and inserting “or behavioral and mental health practice, including clinical psychology”.

SEC. 142. HEAL LENDER AND HOLDER PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.

(a) GENERAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 707(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292f) is amended—

(1) by striking the last sentence;

(2) by striking “determined.” and inserting “determined, except that, if the insurance beneficiary including any servicer of the loan is not designated for ‘exceptional performance’, as set forth in paragraph (2), the Secretary shall pay to the beneficiary a sum equal to 98 percent of the amount of the loss sustained by the insured upon that loan.”;

(3) by striking “Upon” and inserting:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(2) EXCEPTIONAL PERFORMANCE.—

“(A) AUTHORITY.—Where the Secretary determines that an eligible lender, holder, or servicer has a compliance performance rating that equals or exceeds 97 percent, the Secretary shall designate that eligible lender, holder, or servicer, as the case may be, for exceptional performance.

“(B) COMPLIANCE PERFORMANCE RATING.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), a compliance performance rating is determined with respect to compliance with due diligence in the disbursement, servicing, and collection of loans under this subpart for each year for which the determination is made. Such rating shall be equal to the percentage of all due diligence requirements applicable to each loan, on average, as established by the Secretary, with respect to loans serviced during the period by the eligible lender, holder, or servicer.

“(C) ANNUAL AUDITS FOR LENDERS, HOLDERS, AND SERVICERS.—Each eligible lender, holder, or servicer desiring a designation under subparagraph (A) shall have an annual financial and compliance audit conducted with respect to the loan portfolio of such eligible lender, holder, or servicer, by a qualified independent organization from a list of qualified organizations identified by the Secretary and in accordance with standards established by the Secretary. The standards shall measure the lender’s, holder’s, or servicer’s compliance with due diligence standards and shall include a defined statistical sampling technique designed to measure the performance rating of the eligible lender, holder, or servicer for the purpose of this section. Each eligible lender, holder, or servicer shall submit the audit required by this section to the Secretary.

“(D) SECRETARY’S DETERMINATIONS.—The Secretary shall make the determination under subparagraph (A) based upon the audits submitted under this paragraph and any information in the possession of the Secretary or submitted by any other agency or office of the Federal Government.

“(E) QUARTERLY COMPLIANCE AUDIT.—To maintain its status as an exceptional performer, the lender, holder, or servicer shall undergo a quarterly compliance audit at the end of each quarter (other than the quarter in which status as an exceptional performer is established through a financial and compliance audit, as described in subparagraph (C)), and submit the results of such audit to the Secretary. The compliance audit shall review compliance with due diligence requirements for the period beginning on the

day after the ending date of the previous audit, in accordance with standards determined by the Secretary.

“(F) REVOCATION AUTHORITY.—The Secretary shall revoke the designation of a lender, holder, or servicer under subparagraph (A) if any quarterly audit required under subparagraph (E) is not received by the Secretary by the date established by the Secretary or if the audit indicates the lender, holder, or servicer has failed to meet the standards for designation as an exceptional performer under subparagraph (A). A lender, holder, or servicer receiving a compliance audit not meeting the standard for designation as an exceptional performer may reapply for designation under subparagraph (A) at any time.

“(G) DOCUMENTATION.—Nothing in this section shall restrict or limit the authority of the Secretary to require the submission of claims documentation evidencing servicing performed on loans, except that the Secretary may not require exceptional performers to submit greater documentation than that required for lenders, holders, and servicers not designated under subparagraph (A).

“(H) COST OF AUDITS.—Each eligible lender, holder, or servicer shall pay for all the costs associated with the audits required under this section.

“(I) ADDITIONAL REVOCATION AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a designation under subparagraph (A) may be revoked at any time by the Secretary if the Secretary determines that the eligible lender, holder, or servicer has failed to maintain an overall level of compliance consistent with the audit submitted by the eligible lender, holder, or servicer under this paragraph or if the Secretary asserts that the lender, holder, or servicer may have engaged in fraud in securing designation under subparagraph (A) or is failing to service loans in accordance with program requirements.

“(J) NONCOMPLIANCE.—A lender, holder, or servicer designated under subparagraph (A) that fails to service loans or otherwise comply with applicable program regulations shall be considered in violation of the Federal False Claims Act.”

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 707(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292f(e)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) The term ‘servicer’ means any agency acting on behalf of the insurance beneficiary.”

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsections (a) and (b) shall apply with respect to loans submitted to the Secretary for payment on or after the first day of the sixth month that begins after the date of enactment of this Act.

SEC. 143. INSURANCE PROGRAM.

Section 710(a)(2)(B) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292i(a)(2)(B)) is amended by striking “any of the fiscal years 1993 through 1996” and inserting “fiscal year 1993 and subsequent fiscal years”.

SEC. 144. HEAL BANKRUPTCY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292f(g)) is amended in the first sentence by striking “A debt which is a loan insured” and inserting “Notwithstanding any other provision of Federal or State law, a debt that is a loan insured”.

(b) APPLICATION.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to any loan insured under the authority of subpart I of part A of title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292 et seq.) that is listed or scheduled by the debtor in a case under title XI, United States Code, filed—

(1) on or after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) prior to such date of enactment in which a discharge has not been granted.

SEC. 145. HEAL REFINANCING.

Section 706 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292e) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “CONSOLIDATION” and inserting “REFINANCING OR CONSOLIDATION”; and

(B) in the first sentence, by striking “indebtedness” and inserting “indebtedness or the refinancing of a single loan”; and

(2) in subsection (e)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “DEBTS” and inserting “DEBTS AND REFINANCING”; and

(B) in the first sentence, by striking “all of the borrower’s debts into a single instrument” and inserting “all of the borrower’s loans insured under this subpart into a single instrument (or, if the borrower obtained only 1 loan insured under this subpart, refinancing the loan 1 time)”; and

(C) in the second sentence, by striking “consolidation” and inserting “consolidation or refinancing”.

TITLE II—OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH

SEC. 201. REVISION AND EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS OF OFFICE OF MINORITY HEALTH.

(a) DUTIES AND REQUIREMENTS.—Section 1707 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6) is amended by striking subsection (b) and all that follows and inserting the following:

“(b) DUTIES.—With respect to improving the health of racial and ethnic minority groups, the Secretary, acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health (in this section referred to as the ‘Deputy Assistant Secretary’), shall carry out the following:

“(1) Establish short-range and long-range goals and objectives and coordinate all other activities within the Public Health Service that relate to disease prevention, health promotion, service delivery, and research concerning such individuals. The heads of each of the agencies of the Service shall consult with the Deputy Assistant Secretary to ensure the coordination of such activities.

“(2) Enter into interagency agreements with other agencies of the Public Health Service.

“(3) Support research, demonstrations and evaluations to test new and innovative models.

“(4) Increase knowledge and understanding of health risk factors.

“(5) Develop mechanisms that support better information dissemination, education, prevention, and service delivery to individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds, including individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups.

“(6) Ensure that the National Center for Health Statistics collects data on the health status of each minority group.

“(7) With respect to individuals who lack proficiency in speaking the English language, enter into contracts with public and nonprofit private providers of primary health services for the purpose of increasing the access of the individuals to such services by developing and carrying out programs to provide bilingual or interpretive services.

“(8) Support a national minority health resource center to carry out the following:

“(A) Facilitate the exchange of information regarding matters relating to health information and health promotion, preventive health services, and education in the appropriate use of health care.

“(B) Facilitate access to such information.

“(C) Assist in the analysis of issues and problems relating to such matters.

“(D) Provide technical assistance with respect to the exchange of such information (including facilitating the development of materials for such technical assistance).

“(9) Carry out programs to improve access to health care services for individuals with limited proficiency in speaking the English language. Activities under the preceding sentence shall include developing and evaluating model projects.

“(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory committee to be known as the Advisory Committee on Minority Health (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Committee’).

“(2) DUTIES.—The Committee shall provide advice to the Deputy Assistant Secretary carrying out this section, including advice on the development of goals and specific program activities under paragraphs (1) through (9) of subsection (b) for each racial and ethnic minority group.

“(3) CHAIR.—The chairperson of the Committee shall be selected by the Secretary from among the members of the voting members of the Committee. The term of office of the chairperson shall be 2 years.

“(4) COMPOSITION.—

“(A) The Committee shall be composed of 12 voting members appointed in accordance with subparagraph (B), and nonvoting, ex officio members designated in subparagraph (C).

“(B) The voting members of the Committee shall be appointed by the Secretary from among individuals who are not officers or employees of the Federal Government and who have expertise regarding issues of minority health. The racial and ethnic minority groups shall be equally represented among such members.

“(C) The nonvoting, ex officio members of the Committee shall be such officials of the Department of Health and Human Services as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

“(5) TERMS.—Each member of the Committee shall serve for a term of 4 years, except that the Secretary shall initially appoint a portion of the members to terms of 1 year, 2 years, and 3 years.

“(6) VACANCIES.—If a vacancy occurs on the Committee, a new member shall be appointed by the Secretary within 90 days from the date that the vacancy occurs, and serve for the remainder of the term for which the predecessor of such member was appointed. The vacancy shall not affect the power of the remaining members to execute the duties of the Committee.

“(7) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Committee who are officers or employees of the United States shall serve without compensation. Members of the Committee who are not officers or employees of the United States shall receive compensation, for each day (including travel time) they are engaged in the performance of the functions of the Committee. Such compensation may not be in an amount in excess of the daily equivalent of the annual maximum rate of basic pay payable under the General Schedule (under title 5, United States Code) for positions above GS-15.

“(d) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS REGARDING DUTIES.—

“(1) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LANGUAGE AS IMPEDIMENT TO HEALTH CARE.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority Health shall consult with the Director of the Office of International and Refugee Health, the Director of the Office of Civil Rights, and the Directors of other appropriate Departmental entities regarding recommendations for carrying out activities under subsection (b)(9).

“(2) **EQUITABLE ALLOCATION REGARDING ACTIVITIES.**—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary shall ensure that services provided under such subsection are equitably allocated among all groups served under this section by the Secretary.

“(3) **CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF SERVICES.**—The Secretary shall ensure that information and services provided pursuant to subsection (b) are provided in the language, educational, and cultural context that is most appropriate for the individuals for whom the information and services are intended.

“(e) **GRANTS AND CONTRACTS REGARDING DUTIES.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out subsection (b), the Secretary acting through the Deputy Assistant Secretary may make awards of grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to public and nonprofit private entities.

“(2) **PROCESS FOR MAKING AWARDS.**—The Deputy Assistant Secretary shall ensure that awards under paragraph (1) are made, to the extent practical, only on a competitive basis, and that a grant is awarded for a proposal only if the proposal has been recommended for such an award through a process of peer review.

“(3) **EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.**—The Deputy Assistant Secretary, directly or through contracts with public and private entities, shall provide for evaluations of projects carried out with awards made under paragraph (1) during the preceding 2 fiscal years. The report shall be included in the report required under subsection (f) for the fiscal year involved.

“(f) **REPORTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than February 1 of fiscal year 1999 and of each second year thereafter, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives, and to the Committee on Labor and Human Resources of the Senate, a report describing the activities carried out under this section during the preceding 2 fiscal years and evaluating the extent to which such activities have been effective in improving the health of racial and ethnic minority groups. Each such report shall include the biennial reports submitted under sections 201(e)(3) and 201(f)(2) for such years by the heads of the Public Health Service agencies.

“(2) **AGENCY REPORTS.**—Not later than February 1, 1999, and biennially thereafter, the heads of the Public Health Service agencies shall submit to the Deputy Assistant Secretary a report summarizing the minority health activities of each of the respective agencies.

“(g) **DEFINITION.**—For purposes of this section:

“(1) The term ‘racial and ethnic minority group’ means American Indians (including Alaska Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics.

“(2) The term ‘Hispanic’ means individuals whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American, or any other Spanish-speaking country.

“(h) **FUNDING.**—

“(1) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—For the purpose of carrying out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated \$30,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.”

(b) **AUTHORIZATION FOR NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTH STATISTICS.**—Section 306 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242k) is amended—

(1) in subsection (m), by adding at the end the following:

“(4)(A) Subject to subparagraph (B), the Secretary, acting through the Center, shall

collect data on Hispanics and major Hispanic subpopulation groups and American Indians, and for developing special area population studies on major Asian American and Pacific Islander populations.

“(B) The provisions of subparagraph (A) shall be effective with respect to a fiscal year only to the extent that funds are appropriated pursuant to paragraph (3) of subsection (n), and only if the amounts appropriated for such fiscal year pursuant to each of paragraphs (1) and (2) of subsection (n) equal or exceed the amounts so appropriated for fiscal year 1997.”;

(2) in subsection (n)(1), by striking “through 1998” and inserting “through 2003”; and

(3) in subsection (n)

(A) in the first sentence of paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “authorized in subsection (m)” and inserting “authorized in paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (m)”;

(ii) by striking “\$5,000,000” and all that follows through the period and inserting “such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following: “(3) For activities authorized in subsection (m)(4), there are authorized to be appropriated \$1,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002.”

(c) **MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS.**—Section 1707 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6) is amended—

(1) in the heading for the section by striking “ESTABLISHMENT OF”; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking “Office of the Assistant Secretary for Health” and inserting “Office of Public Health and Science”.

TITLE III—SELECTED INITIATIVES

SEC. 301. STATE OFFICES OF RURAL HEALTH.

Section 338J of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254r) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “in cash”; and

(2) in subsection (j)(1)—

(A) by striking “and” after “1992.”; and

(B) by inserting before the period the following: “, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002”; and

(3) in subsection (k), by striking “\$10,000,000” and inserting “\$36,000,000”.

SEC. 302. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS REGARDING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 398(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280c-3(a)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “not less than 5, and not more than 15.”;

(2) in paragraph (2)—

(A) by inserting after “disorders” the following: “who are living in single family homes or in congregate settings”; and

(B) by striking “and” at the end;

(3) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(4) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) to improve the access of such individuals to home-based or community-based long-term care services (subject to the services being provided by entities that were providing such services in the State involved as of October 1, 1995), particularly such individuals who are members of racial or ethnic minority groups, who have limited proficiency in speaking the English language, or who live in rural areas; and”

(b) **DURATION.**—Section 398A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280c-4) is amended—

(1) in the heading for the section, by striking “LIMITATION” and all that follows and

inserting “**REQUIREMENT OF MATCHING FUNDS**”;

(2) by striking subsection (a);

(3) by redesignating subsections (b) and (c) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively; and

(4) in subsection (a) (as so redesignated), in each of paragraphs (1)(C) and (2)(C), by striking “third year” and inserting “third or subsequent year”.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 398B(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 280c-5(e)) is amended—

(1) by striking “and such sums” and inserting “such sums”; and

(2) by inserting before the period the following: “, \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2002”.

SEC. 303. PROJECT GRANTS FOR IMMUNIZATION SERVICES.

Section 317(j) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b(j)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “individuals against vaccine-preventable diseases” and all that follows through the first period and inserting the following: “children, adolescents, and adults against vaccine-preventable diseases, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002.”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “1990” and inserting “1997”.

TITLE IV—MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS REGARDING PUBLIC LAW 103-183.

(a) **AMENDATORY INSTRUCTIONS.**—Public Law 103-183 is amended—

(1) in section 601—

(A) in subsection (b), in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Section 1201 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d)” and inserting “Title XII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d et seq.)”; and

(B) in subsection (f)(1), by striking “in section 1204(c)” and inserting “in section 1203(c) (as redesignated by subsection (b)(2) of this section)”;

(2) in section 602, by striking “for the purpose” and inserting “For the purpose”; and

(3) in section 705(b), by striking “317D(1)(1)” and inserting “317D(1)(1)”.

(b) **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT.**—The Public Health Service Act, as amended by Public Law 103-183 and by subsection (a) of this section, is amended—

(1) in section 317E(g)(2), by striking “making grants under subsection (b)” and inserting “carrying out subsection (b)”;

(2) in section 318, in subsection (e) as in effect on the day before the date of the enactment of Public Law 103-183, by redesignating the subsection as subsection (f);

(3) in subpart 6 of part C of title IV—

(A) by transferring the first section 447 (added by section 302 of Public Law 103-183) from the current placement of the section;

(B) by redesignating the section as section 447A; and

(C) by inserting the section after section 447;

(4) in section 1213(a)(8), by striking “provides for” and inserting “provides for”;

(5) in section 1501, by redesignating the second subsection (c) (added by section 101(f) of Public Law 103-183) as subsection (d); and

(6) in section 1505(3), by striking “non-profit”.

(c) **MISCELLANEOUS CORRECTION.**—Section 401(c)(3) of Public Law 103-183 is amended in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) by striking “(d)(5)” and inserting “(e)(5)”.

(d) **CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 308(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242m(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “306(n)” and inserting “306(m)”;

(2) in paragraph (2)(C), by striking “306(n)” and inserting “306(m)”.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section is deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Public Law 103-183.

SEC. 402. MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENTS REGARDING PHS COMMISSIONED OFFICERS.

(a) ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAWS.—Amend section 212 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 213) by adding the following new subsection at the end thereof:

“(f) Active service of commissioned officers of the Service shall be deemed to be active military service in the Armed Forces of the United States for purposes of all laws related to discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, ethnicity, age, religion, and disability.”

(b) TRAINING IN LEAVE WITHOUT PAY STATUS.—Section 218 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 218a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) A commissioned officer may be placed in leave without pay status while attending an educational institution or training program whenever the Secretary determines that such status is in the best interest of the Service. For purposes of computation of basic pay, promotion, retirement, compensation for injury or death, and the benefits provided by sections 212 and 224, an officer in such status pursuant to the preceding sentence shall be considered as performing service in the Service and shall have an active service obligation as set forth in subsection (b) of this section.”

(c) UTILIZATION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ABUSE RECORDS THAT APPLY TO THE ARMED FORCES.—Section 543(e) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290dd-2(e)) is amended by striking “Armed Forces” each place that such term appears and inserting “Uniformed Services”.

SEC. 403. CLINICAL TRAINEESHIPS.

Section 303(d)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 242a(d)(1)) is amended by inserting “counseling,” after “family therapy.”

SEC. 404. PROJECT GRANTS FOR SCREENINGS, REFERRALS, AND EDUCATION REGARDING LEAD POISONING.

Section 317A(l)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-1(l)(1)) is amended by striking “1998” and inserting “2002”.

SEC. 405. PROJECT GRANTS FOR PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES REGARDING TUBERCULOSIS.

Section 317E(g) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-6(g)(1)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “1998” and inserting “2002”; and

(B) in subparagraph (B), by striking “\$50,000,000” and inserting “25 percent”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “1998” and inserting “2002”.

SEC. 406. CDC LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

Section 317F of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-7) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “\$20,000” and inserting “\$35,000”;

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “1998” and inserting “2002”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(d) AVAILABILITY OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Amounts appropriated for a fiscal year for contracts under subsection (a) shall remain available until the expiration of the second fiscal year beginning after the fiscal year for which the amounts were appropriated.”

SEC. 407. COMMUNITY PROGRAMS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 318(h)(2) of the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (42 U.S.C. 10418(h)(2)) is amended by striking “fiscal year 1997” and inserting “for each of the fiscal years 1997 through 2002”.

(b) STUDY.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall request that the Institute of Medicine conduct a study concerning the training needs of health professionals with respect to the detection and referral of victims of family or acquaintance violence. Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Institute of Medicine shall prepare and submit to Congress a report concerning the study conducted under this subsection.

SEC. 408. STATE LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.

Section 338I(i)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254q-1(i)(1)) is amended by inserting before the period “,” and such sums as may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2002”.

SEC. 409. AUTHORITY OF THE DIRECTOR OF NIH.

Section 402(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 282(b)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” at the end thereof;

(2) in paragraph (12), by striking the period and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding after paragraph (12), the following new paragraphs:

“(13) may conduct and support research training—

“(A) for which fellowship support is not provided under section 487; and

“(B) which does not consist of residency training of physicians or other health professionals; and

“(14) may appoint physicians, dentists, and other health care professionals, subject to the provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to appointments and classifications in the competitive service, and may compensate such professionals subject to the provisions of chapter 74 of title 38, United States Code.”

SEC. 410. RAISE IN MAXIMUM LEVEL OF LOAN REPAYMENTS.

(a) REPAYMENT PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO AIDS.—Section 487A of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 288-1) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “\$20,000” and inserting “\$35,000”; and

(2) in subsection (c), by striking “1996” and inserting “2001”.

(b) REPAYMENT PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO CONTRACEPTION AND INFERTILITY.—Section 487B(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 288-2(a)) is amended by striking “\$20,000” and inserting “\$35,000”.

(c) REPAYMENT PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO RESEARCH GENERALLY.—Section 487C(a)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 288-3(a)(1)) is amended by striking “\$20,000” and inserting “\$35,000”.

(d) REPAYMENT PROGRAMS WITH RESPECT TO CLINICAL RESEARCHERS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS.—Section 487E(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 288-5(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “\$20,000” and inserting “\$35,000”; and

(2) in paragraph (3), by striking “338C” and inserting “338B, 338C”.

SEC. 411. CONSTRUCTION OF REGIONAL CENTERS FOR RESEARCH ON PRIMATES.

Section 481B(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 287a-3(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “shall” and inserting “may”; and

(2) by striking “\$5,000,000” and inserting “up to \$2,500,000”.

SEC. 412. PEER REVIEW.

Section 504(d)(2) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290aa-3(d)(2)) is amended by striking “cooperative agreement, or contract” each place that such appears and inserting “or cooperative agreement”.

SEC. 413. FUNDING FOR TRAUMA CARE.

Section 1232(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300d-32) is amended by

striking “and 1996” and inserting “through 2002”.

SEC. 414. HEALTH INFORMATION AND HEALTH PROMOTION.

Section 1701(b) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u(b)) is amended by striking “through 1996” and inserting “through 2002”.

SEC. 415. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES FOR CHILDREN.

Section 1910 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300w-9) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “two-year period” and inserting “3-year period (with an optional 4th year based on performance)”;

(B) by striking “one grant” and inserting “3 grants”; and

(2) in subsection (d), by striking “1997” and inserting “2005”.

SEC. 416. ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 2004 of Public Law 103-43 (107 Stat. 209) is amended by striking subsection (a).

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 2004 of Public Law 103-43, as amended by subsection (a) of this section, is amended—

(1) by striking “(b) SENSE” and all that follows through “In the case” and inserting the following:

“(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING PURCHASE OF AMERICAN-MADE EQUIPMENT AND PRODUCTS.—In the case”;

(2) by striking “(2) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE” and inserting the following:

“(b) NOTICE TO RECIPIENTS OF ASSISTANCE”;

(3) in subsection (b), as redesignated by paragraph (2) of this subsection, by striking “paragraph (1)” and inserting “subsection (a)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section is deemed to have taken effect immediately after the enactment of Public Law 103-43.

SEC. 417. AIDS DRUG ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

Section 2618(b)(3) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300ff-28(b)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico” and inserting “, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, and Guam”; and

(2) in subparagraph (B), by striking “the Virgin Islands, Guam”.

SEC. 418. NATIONAL FOUNDATION FOR BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH.

Part I of title IV of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 290b et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking the part heading and inserting the following:

“PART I—FOUNDATION FOR THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH”;

and

(2) in section 499—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “National Foundation for Biomedical Research” and inserting “Foundation for the National Institutes of Health”;

(B) in subsection (k)(10)—

(i) by striking “not”; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following: “Any funds transferred under this paragraph shall be subject to all Federal limitations relating to Federally-funded research.”; and

(C) in subsection (m)(1), by striking “\$200,000” and all that follows through “1995” and inserting “\$500,000 for each fiscal year”.

SEC. 419. FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME PREVENTION AND SERVICES.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the “Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect Prevention and Services Act”.

(b) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) Fetal Alcohol Syndrome is the leading preventable cause of mental retardation, and it is 100 percent preventable;

(2) estimates on the number of children each year vary, but according to some researchers, up to 12,000 infants are born in the United States with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, suffering irreversible physical and mental damage;

(3) thousands more infants are born each year with Fetal Alcohol Effect, also known as Alcohol Related Neurobehavioral Disorder (ARND), a related and equally tragic syndrome;

(4) children of women who use alcohol while pregnant have a significantly higher infant mortality rate (13.3 per 1000) than children of those women who do not use alcohol (8.6 per 1000);

(5) Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect are national problems which can impact any child, family, or community, but their threat to American Indians and Alaska Natives is especially alarming;

(6) in some American Indian communities, where alcohol dependency rates reach 50 percent and above, the chances of a newborn suffering Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Effect are up to 30 times greater than national averages;

(7) in addition to the immeasurable toll on children and their families, Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect pose extraordinary financial costs to the Nation, including the costs of health care, education, foster care, job training, and general support services for affected individuals;

(8) the total cost to the economy of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome was approximately \$2,500,000,000 in 1995, and over a lifetime, health care costs for one Fetal Alcohol Syndrome child are estimated to be at least \$1,400,000;

(9) researchers have determined that the possibility of giving birth to a baby with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Effect increases in proportion to the amount and frequency of alcohol consumed by a pregnant woman, and that stopping alcohol consumption at any point in the pregnancy reduces the emotional, physical, and mental consequences of alcohol exposure to the baby; and

(10) though approximately 1 out of every 5 pregnant women drink alcohol during their pregnancy, we know of no safe dose of alcohol during pregnancy, or of any safe time to drink during pregnancy, thus, it is in the best interest of the Nation for the Federal Government to take an active role in encouraging all women to abstain from alcohol consumption during pregnancy.

(c) **PURPOSE.**—It is the purpose of this section to establish, within the Department of Health and Human Services, a comprehensive program to help prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect nationwide and to provide effective intervention programs and services for children, adolescents and adults already affected by these conditions. Such program shall—

(1) coordinate, support, and conduct national, State, and community-based public awareness, prevention, and education programs on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect;

(2) coordinate, support, and conduct prevention and intervention studies as well as epidemiologic research concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect;

(3) coordinate, support and conduct research and demonstration projects to develop effective developmental and behavioral interventions and programs that foster effective advocacy, educational and vocational training, appropriate therapies, counseling, medical and mental health, and other supportive services, as well as models that inte-

grate or coordinate such services, aimed at the unique challenges facing individuals with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Effect and their families; and

(4) foster coordination among all Federal, State and local agencies, and promote partnerships between research institutions and communities that conduct or support Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect research, programs, surveillance, prevention, and interventions and otherwise meet the general needs of populations already affected or at risk of being impacted by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect.

(d) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 241 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“PART O—FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME PREVENTION AND SERVICES PROGRAM

“SEC. 399G. ESTABLISHMENT OF FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME PREVENTION AND SERVICES PROGRAM.

“(a) **FETAL ALCOHOL SYNDROME PREVENTION, INTERVENTION AND SERVICES DELIVERY PROGRAM.**—The Secretary shall establish a comprehensive Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect prevention, intervention and services delivery program that shall include—

“(1) an education and public awareness program to support, conduct, and evaluate the effectiveness of—

“(A) educational programs targeting medical schools, social and other supportive services, educators and counselors and other service providers in all phases of childhood development, and other relevant service providers, concerning the prevention, identification, and provision of services for children, adolescents and adults with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect;

“(B) strategies to educate school-age children, including pregnant and high risk youth, concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect;

“(C) public and community awareness programs concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect; and

“(D) strategies to coordinate information and services across affected community agencies, including agencies providing social services such as foster care, adoption, and social work, medical and mental health services, and agencies involved in education, vocational training and civil and criminal justice;

“(2) a prevention and diagnosis program to support clinical studies, demonstrations and other research as appropriate to—

“(A) develop appropriate medical diagnostic methods for identifying Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect; and

“(B) develop effective prevention services and interventions for pregnant, alcohol-dependent women; and

“(3) an applied research program concerning intervention and prevention to support and conduct service demonstration projects, clinical studies and other research models providing advocacy, educational and vocational training, counseling, medical and mental health, and other supportive services, as well as models that integrate and coordinate such services, that are aimed at the unique challenges facing individuals with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome or Fetal Alcohol Effect and their families.

“(b) **GRANTS AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary may award grants, cooperative agreements and contracts and provide technical assistance to eligible entities described in section 399H to carry out subsection (a).

“(c) **DISSEMINATION OF CRITERIA.**—In carrying out this section, the Secretary shall develop a procedure for disseminating the

Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect diagnostic criteria developed pursuant to section 705 of the ADAMHA Reorganization Act (42 U.S.C. 485n note) to health care providers, educators, social workers, child welfare workers, and other individuals.

“(d) **NATIONAL TASK FORCE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall establish a task force to be known as the National task force on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect (referred to in this subsection as the ‘task force’) to foster coordination among all governmental agencies, academic bodies and community groups that conduct or support Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect research, programs, and surveillance, and otherwise meet the general needs of populations actually or potentially impacted by Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect.

“(2) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Task Force established pursuant to paragraph (1) shall—

“(A) be chaired by an individual to be appointed by the Secretary and staffed by the Administration; and

“(B) include the Chairperson of the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome of the Department of Health and Human Services, individuals with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect, and representatives from advocacy and research organization such as the Research Society on Alcoholism, the FAS Family Resource Institute, the National Organization of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome, the Arc, the academic community, and Federal, State and local government agencies and offices.

“(3) **FUNCTIONS.**—The Task Force shall—

“(A) advise Federal, State and local programs and research concerning Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect, including programs and research concerning education and public awareness for relevant service providers, school-age children, women at-risk, and the general public, medical diagnosis, interventions for women at-risk of giving birth to children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect, and beneficial services for individuals with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effect and their families;

“(B) coordinate its efforts with the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Fetal Alcohol Syndrome of the Department of Health and Human Services; and

“(C) report on a biennial basis to the Secretary and relevant committees of Congress on the current and planned activities of the participating agencies.

“(4) **TIME FOR APPOINTMENT.**—The members of the Task Force shall be appointed by the Secretary not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this part.

“SEC. 399H. ELIGIBILITY.

“To be eligible to receive a grant, or enter into a cooperative agreement or contract under this part, an entity shall—

“(1) be a State, Indian tribal government, local government, scientific or academic institution, or nonprofit organization; and

“(2) prepare and submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may prescribe, including a description of the activities that the entity intends to carry out using amounts received under this part.

“SEC. 399I. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part, \$27,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1999 through 2003.

“(b) **TASK FORCE.**—From amounts appropriate for a fiscal year under subsection (a), the Secretary may use not to exceed \$2,000,000 of such amounts for the operations

of the National Task Force under section 399G(d).

“SEC. 399J. SUNSET PROVISION.

“This part shall not apply on the date that is 7 years after the date on which all members of the national task force have been appointed under section 399G(d)(1).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation, S. 1754.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge support for S. 1754, the Health Professions Education Partnerships Act of 1998. This bill is the result of 2 years collaboration between the House and Senate, the administration and health professions groups nationwide. The result is the reauthorization bill that I believe will do much to advance health care education in America.

Mr. Speaker, the act strengthens our programs to train future doctors, nurses and other care givers by consolidating existing programs into clusters. Where today we have 44 different Federal health profession training programs, this act creates 7 general and flexible categories of authority. Just as important, it places important emphasis on the training of health practitioners for the rural and underserved areas which most need them.

Again, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend all those in the House and Senate who have worked so hard on this bill. In particular, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), for his help in resolving concerns with the Senate passed bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 1754.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1754, as amended by the manager's amendment. This bill is a long overdue reauthorization of the health professions programs contained in titles VII and VIII of the Public Health Service Act. These programs touch almost the entire range of health professions including nurses, physicians and others who make up our health care work force.

This legislation does much more than simply reauthorize these programs. It also significantly modifies them.

The basic nature of these changes to the existing structure of titles VII and

VIII is to provide flexibility to meet changing needs in the health care work force. The Health Resources and Services Administration part of the Department of Health and Human Services administers these programs at the federal level and supports this legislation.

The three basic elements of the health professions programs are to increase the number of primary care professionals, one; second, increase the racial and ethnic diversity of the health care work force; and third, to provide access to health care to underserved in rural areas. The bill recognizes that these goals are as complex as they are worthy. The bill also recognizes that resources for health professions, education and training are scarce.

The list of organizations that support this legislation is so long that in naming them I risk leaving them out. These include the American Nurses Association, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American College of Physicians, the American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine, the Association of Minority Health Profession Schools, the Association of American Medical Colleges, the American Geriatric Society, the Association of Colleges of Pharmacy, the American Public Health Association, the American Psychological Association, the American Mental Health Counselors, the Working Group on Hispanic Health Education, the National Association of Geriatric Education Centers, the Area Health Education Centers, the American Dental Association, the National Association of Social Workers, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Organization of Nurse Executives and the National League of Nursing among others.

I am pleased to note, Mr. Speaker, that the organizations I just mentioned supported the bill when it passed the Senate and continue to support it now with the manager's amendment. New additions to the list of supporters of the bill because of the manager's amendment are the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American College of Nurse Midwives, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Associates and Practitioners and the Association of Nurse Anesthetists. These are key participants in this country's primary care nursing work-force.

As many of us know, the bill which passed the Senate did not have the support of some of these groups. The manager's amendment represents a consensus among nursing professions and is a remarkable achievement made possible first of all by all of the title VIII stakeholders.

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They participated in a process that brought us to this day, and I want to thank each of them for their tireless effort and cooperative spirit and dedication to resolving these difficult issues.

This achievement also could not have been possible without a true bipartisan effort among my colleagues. I know that Members from both sides of the aisle played key roles in the negotiations that I just described. I want to pay special tribute to the work of my friend and colleague and the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and Environment, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), as well as the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY). Many other Members from the chairman's side of the aisle helped to develop this bill, and I will leave it to the chairman to recognize them.

On this side of the aisle, let me begin by saying we would not be here today without the participation and leadership of my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS). It is as simple as that. My colleagues the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE), and, as always, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), did great work also to get this bill for us today.

I also want to recognize the fine efforts of staff on both sides of the aisle, Brenda Pillors, Paul Kim, Libby Mullin, Kevin Brennan and John Ford. Todd Tuten and Eric Berger did outstanding work on behalf of the majority, and I thank them as well.

I know our schedule is hectic and many of my colleagues would like to speak on this bill, so I will reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield three minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), the very able chairman of the subcommittee.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, this important legislation will improve the supply and distribution of health professionals nationwide. It also focuses, as has been so ably explained already, much needed attention on the training of caregivers for our Nation's underserved communities.

For three decades the Public Health Service Act has played an important role in funding the training of America's health professionals. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and Environment of the Committee on Commerce, I am proud of our bipartisan efforts in support of these very critical education programs. The challenge we face today is ensuring that the providers we train are prepared to meet the diverse needs of America's many different communities, and that is why this act replaces line items with clusters, as the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) has already explained, to better match resources with needs.

This has not been an easy outcome to achieve. I would like to take a moment to thank all of those who have dedicated their time and energy to help us get here today. In particular I would like to commend the members of America's nursing community. After bringing concerns they had, and, God knows they did have concerns, with the

Senate-passed bill to our attention, the community as a whole worked together to help us reach consensus.

S. 1754, as amended, represents that consensus, Mr. Speaker, and, again, I am grateful for their efforts and, of course, those of the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), and I also want to acknowledge, as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was so very kind to do, the hard work of our committee staffs on both sides of the aisle working in a bipartisan basis. They were able to draft language that enjoys the support of the entire public health community.

I urge passage of S. 1754, as amended. Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield two minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL).

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Ohio for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It has been produced by the bipartisan efforts of Members on both sides of the aisle.

I want to commend my colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the gentlewoman from Colorado (Ms. DEGETTE) and the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN).

In looking across the aisle, I want to express my admiration for the fine leadership of the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY) and the gentleman from Florida (Chairman BILIRAKIS), and also the staffs on both sides of the aisle. In acknowledging my colleagues, I must pay tribute to the staffs of all of the Members above and of the full committee and of the minority, and also to Brenda Pillors of the staff of the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS). Her work on this matter was extraordinary, as was the work of John Ford of the staff of the minority.

Mr. Speaker, this bill reforms what had been previously a good bill, but not one which was good enough. It ignored a large number of people in the health care professions, particularly the nurses, whose work merits the highest respect and the greatest attention. Happily, the labors of Members on this side of the Capitol have corrected the faults of the Senate bill, and we have here a bill which all of my colleagues can support. I do again want to pay tribute to those who have made this success possible.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield four minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOWNS), who worked so hard on this bill.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, let me begin by thanking the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr.

BLILEY), for the outstanding leadership, and, of course, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Health and Environment, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS), for his outstanding leadership.

On this side of the aisle let me thank the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL), for his hard work in making this a reality, and, of course, the ranking member of the subcommittee, my good friend and a person that has worked very hard as well, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), for making it possible for us to be here at this point and time.

The work of the committee and staff as well, I should recognize that on both sides of the aisle, was vital in terms of bringing us to this point in time as well. I would like to thank Mr. Eric Berger, and, of course, John Ford, and, of course, Brenda Pillors of my staff, for their work to improve this bill.

I want to express my support for the hold-harmless provision to protect the nurse practitioners and nurse midwives funding levels until a primary health care work study is implemented.

Let me commend the nursing community for their efforts to develop a workable solution. They stayed there and they continued to have dialogue and to have discussions to make it possible for us to come together to have something that we all could sort of support and begin to work with.

The nursing practitioners and nurse midwives who provide primary care services and practice in underserved areas have a proven track record in meeting the goals of this legislation.

This funding will continue until a study incorporating key factors as part of its methodology can be done to provide data that will assist HHS in making further funding decisions. This is so important, because we want to make certain that we have the kind of information that we need in order to move forward.

The House Committee on Commerce and the Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee will receive reports from the department about the study, and that will come back to us and then we will have that information as well. We are hopeful that such a study will help us identify Federal health professional education priorities, which is needed and needed desperately.

Additionally I am pleased that S. 1754, as amended, does not supersede years of state legislative efforts to establish a new Federal definition for advanced practice nurses. This is something that a lot of people are concerned with, and, of course, as a result of the hard work we were able to resolve that issue as well.

The changes by the Committee on Commerce ensures that we will not interfere with how nursing is treated at the state level or in the private sector. This will not interfere with that in any way.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. It is not per-

fect legislation, but, I will tell you, it is legislation that has taken a giant step in the right direction. This bill will go a long way towards improving health professional education and making certain that the programs will meet the kind of needs and be able to meet the needs of those in underserved areas as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that we move forward, and ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this legislation, and also to recognize the hard work that has gone on on both sides of the aisle among both Democrats and Republicans.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield three minutes to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE).

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1754, the Health Professional Educational Partnership Act, and I really want to thank the people I worked with on this. This has been a wonderful coordination and a bipartisan effort. The gentleman from Virginia (Chairman BLILEY) and the gentleman from Florida (Chairman BILIRAKIS) have been so helpful to us, and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN). So this has been something that we have had a good feeling about.

The Health Professional Education Partnership Act will reauthorize for five years the health profession education programs which provide medical training to thousands of health care providers each year. A wonderful university in my district, Oregon Health Sciences University, is very supportive of this.

I also want to thank the nurses and nurse practitioners who brought this so much to our attention. I am also very pleased that section 407 of this legislation reauthorizes until 2002 the Center for Disease Control's Coordinated Community Responses to Prevent Intimate Partner Violence Program. This is a program which, along with Senator Mark Hatfield of Oregon, I cosponsored and coauthored in the 1994 crime bill. What it does is it better coordinates a community response to domestic violence. It provides grants to communities that prepare a comprehensive strategy to deal with domestic violence, incorporating the efforts of local nonprofit organizations, businesses, social service agencies, law enforcement and the courts.

Too often in the past different organizations all working on the same goal of trying to reduce domestic violence had really little or no knowledge of what their colleagues were doing. What this bill does is it pulls together those coordinated programs, and we know that preventing and effectively addressing domestic violence can only occur when communities work together.

The Health Professions Education Partnership Act is a very good bill, and I want to thank my colleagues for their fine work on this legislation.

I urge the House to pass S. 1754.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield two minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON).

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to offer support for this bill and speak on its behalf, and I want to express my appreciation to the leaders of both committees on both sides of the aisle.

The Nurse Education Act was last reauthorized, of course, in 1992, and Congress has worked very hard since 1994 to get it reauthorized. So I am delighted that we have come to this point.

This bill has a very noble goal, to expand access to health care in rural and underserved areas, while increasing the number of minorities who are trained as primary health care professionals. I have had dental school as well as medical school representatives come into my office expressing dismay that we do not have as many minorities going into the health care professions as we did in the past, and it is causing, especially in my home state, a great lack of health care professionals in the neediest areas, especially in our border areas where we are heavily populated with Hispanic persons, and we are trying very hard to attract persons that are bilingual in order to service this population.

I am also pleased that the bill restructures Title 8 of the Health Professions Training Act to allow for more efficient, flexible and comprehensive Federal financial support for nursing workforce development.

Under the current authorization, there were so many different categories, and this bill simply consolidates them into three areas of authority, the advanced practice nursing education and training programs, programs to increase nursing workforce diversity, and projects to strengthen the capacity of basic nursing education.

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I, too, express my appreciation for the manager's amendment to this bill, which contains a hold harmless provision that assures current funding levels for the current authorizations until such time that HHS has developed the methodology for a new streamlined financing process. Mr. Speaker, I support the bill.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the reauthorization of this important program. The ongoing debate on national health care has focused largely

on the problems of access, costs, and quality. These issues, however, cannot be addressed without dealing with the need to train qualified health providers and insure that underserved rural and inner city communities have the professional resources which they so greatly need.

The reauthorization of this program insures that minorities from disadvantaged backgrounds would have an opportunity to fulfill their dreams and desires of becoming health care professionals.

Currently, African Americans make up 12 percent of the population, but only 2 to 3 percent of the Nation's health professionals workforce. Likewise, Hispanic Americans make up 9 percent of the population, but only 5 percent of the physicians and 3 percent of the dentists.

The underrepresentation of minorities in the health care profession has reduced access to our Nation's needy citizens. This bill seeks to increase the number of health care professionals in shortage areas, and increase the number of minorities in health care. It is a good bill. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1754, the Health Professions Reauthorization Act of 1998. I deeply appreciate the efforts of the gentleman from Florida, Chairman BILIRAKIS, of the House Commerce Subcommittee on Health and Environment and the gentleman from Michigan, Mr. DINGELL, the ranking Democratic member of the House Commerce Committee. They have worked innumerable hours to reach a consensus on this legislation and to bring it to the floor today.

In particular, I wish to thank my colleagues for their leadership and support in securing much needed changes in Title VIII, the Nursing Education Act provisions. One of the most important improvements which my colleagues and I on the subcommittee fought so aggressively for was to restore the meaning of an Advance Practice Nursing Degree. Prior to our changes, the Senate bill, for the first time ever, would have established a federal definition of Advanced Practice Nurses which would put clinical nurse specialists, nurse anesthetists, nurse-midwives, and nurse practitioners into the same category as non-clinicians.

This would not only have set a bad precedent but also have broad implications for the future of nurse education funding and advanced practice nursing at the state level and in the private sector. For instance, in my own state of Colorado, we fought very hard to preserve the meaning of an advanced practice nursing degree. It would be dangerous of us to mislead the public into believing that all nurses with a degree beyond the baccalaureate level are equivalent and have clinical training.

I am also pleased by the inclusion of a "hold harmless" provision to protect nurse practitioner and nurse midwife funding levels. S. 1754 as passed in the Senate, consolidated funding for nurse education and eliminates specific funding line authority for nurse practitioners. This would have jeopardized the ability of nurse practitioners to continue providing primary care services in underserved rural areas and inner cities.

I urge the Health Resources and Services Administration to give special recognition to nurse practitioners who provide primary care when it develops the new health care workforce study for nurses.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues in urging swift passage of this vital professional education program.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1754, the Health Professions Education Act. This legislation provides badly needed resources to a range of health professional educators and I am very pleased that the concerns voiced by every Democrat on the Commerce Committee's Health and Environment Subcommittee were addressed.

The Health Professions Education Partnerships Act has three main objectives. The first is to assure that health professions are generating primary care providers. The second is to ensure there is diversity in the health professions workforce. And the third is to provide adequate services to medically underserved areas. All of these are extremely important objectives for very obvious reasons, and I would urge all of my colleagues to support this bill so it can be sent to the president as soon as possible for his signature. It is important to patients and health educators all across this country and my home state, including the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, which has facilities in my district.

Importantly, as I mentioned earlier, the bill before us today addresses the concerns that every Democratic member of the Health and Environment Subcommittee had with the version of this legislation passed by the other body. That version expanded the definition of Advance Practice Nurses in a manner that could have jeopardized the resources available to train nurse practitioners who provide primary care. It also would have discounted the importance of the extensive education and training that nurse practitioners receive in preparation for their careers, a step I believe would have been unfair and ill-advised.

Democrats on the Health and Environment Subcommittee communicated their concerns to Chairman BILIRAKIS about the definition in the Senate passed version of the bill. Accordingly, the version we are considering today changed the language of the bill to include an appropriate definition of Advanced Nurse Practitioners, and I commend the Chairman for working with us to change the language.

I would also like to commend the Chairman for working with us to address our concerns about the new manner in which funding will be distributed to the various health professions programs, an issue we also raised in our letter. The other body's version of this bill block granted funding for health professions education programs. The proposed block granting gave rise to the same concern we had with the definition of Advance Nurse Practitioners—namely, that the change might lead to a lack of resources for the training of primary care practitioners.

To the Chairman's credit, the bill before us today includes a transition rule, which allows for a change from line items to a data driven methodology for health resources that matches the needs of the workforce. Importantly, the bill includes a "hold harmless" provision for Advance Nurse Practitioners. This "hold harmless" will ensure adequate resources will be available for training primary

care nurses in the years to come, and I appreciate the Chairman's willingness to work with us to get this in the bill.

Again, this is a very important piece of legislation, Mr. Speaker. It is widely supported by Members of Congress in both chambers, and by the health professions groups who fall under its jurisdiction. I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask for support of the bill, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask support for the bill, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1754, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SKAGGS (during debate on agreeing to the conference report to S. 1260). Mr. Speaker, I wanted for the RECORD to note my slight regret for having been absent from the proceedings of the House yesterday as I attended my dear mother's 80th birthday celebration in Kentucky.

As a result, I missed rollcall votes Nos. 521, on which I would have voted aye had I been present, 522, on which I would have voted no, and 523, on which I would have voted no.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 1260, SECURITIES LITIGATION UNIFORM STANDARDS ACT OF 1998

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the conference report on the Senate bill (S. 1260) to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the Senate bill.

(For conference report and statement, see Proceedings of the House of Friday, October 9, 1998, at page H10266.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BLILEY).

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

(Mr. BLILEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. BLILEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report on the Senate bill, S. 1260, Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act of 1998. This legislation we are considering today will eliminate State court as a venue for meritless securities litigation.

This legislation has broad bipartisan support. We recognize that the trial bar should not make an end run around the work we did in 1995 in overriding the President's veto of litigation reform in State court. This legislation will protect investors from baseless securities class action lawsuits in the capital markets.

The premise of this legislation is simple: lawsuits alleging violations that involve securities that are offered nationally belong in Federal court. This premise is consistent with the national nature of these markets that we recognize in the National Securities Market Improvement Act of 1995.

The legislative history accompanying the legislation makes clear that we are not disturbing the heightened pleading standard established by the 1995 Act.

The economic disruptions around the globe are reflected by the volatility that affects our markets. Stock prices are up one day, down the next. The prices are not falling due to fraudulent statements, which are the purported basis of many strike suits. The fall is due to economic conditions.

If there is intentional fraud, there is nothing in this legislation or in the Reform Act to prevent those cases from proceeding. We do not need to exacerbate market downturns by allowing companies to be dragged into court every time their stock price falls. The 1995 Reform Act remedied that problem for Federal courts, and this legislation will remedy it for State courts.

I would like to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Finance and Hazardous Materials, for his hard work and leadership. I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. JOHN DINGELL), the ranking member of the committee, for his constructive participation as we move the bill through committee.

I commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. TOM MANTON), the ranking member of the subcommittee, not only for his work on this legislation, but his valued service on the committee. It has been a pleasure working with him, and he will be missed.

I also commend the gentleman from Washington (Mr. RICK WHITE), the original cosponsor of the legislation, for his tireless efforts and willingness to compromise that has kept this legislation on track to becoming law.

Likewise, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. ANNA ESHOO) has been a leading proponent of this legislation, and has worked to ensure its passage,

and certainly the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), the chairman of the Republican policy committee who has been working on this issue for many years.

Finally, I also commend our colleagues in the other body for their work on this important legislation. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and support S. 1260.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include for the RECORD a complete copy of the conference report on S. 1260.

When the conference report was filed in the House, a page from the statement of managers was inadvertently omitted. That page was included in the copy filed in the Senate, reflecting the agreement of the managers. We are considering today the entire report and statement of managers as agreed to by conferees and inserted in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Since the Chair is aware that the papers filed in the Senate contain that matter as part of the joint statement, its omission from the joint statement filed in the House can be corrected by a unanimous consent request.

Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The text of the Conference Report on S. 1260 is as follows:

CONFERENCE REPORT (H. REPT. 105-803)

The committee of conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the amendment of the House to the bill (S. 1260), to amend the Securities Act of 1933 and the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to limit the conduct of securities class actions under State law, and for other purposes, having met, after full and free conference, have agreed to recommend and do recommend to their respective Houses as follows:

That the Senate recede from its disagreement to the amendment of the House and agree to the same with an amendment as follows:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the House amendment, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Securities Litigation Uniform Standards Act of 1998".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) *the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995 sought to prevent abuses in private securities fraud lawsuits;*

(2) *since enactment of that legislation, considerable evidence has been presented to Congress that a number of securities class action lawsuits have shifted from Federal to State courts;*

(3) *this shift has prevented that Act from fully achieving its objectives;*

(4) *State securities regulation is of continuing importance, together with Federal regulation of securities, to protect investors and promote strong financial markets; and*

(5) *in order to prevent certain State private securities class action lawsuits alleging fraud from being used to frustrate the objectives of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, it is appropriate to enact national standards for securities class action lawsuits involving nationally traded securities, while preserving the appropriate enforcement powers of State securities regulators and not changing the current treatment of individual lawsuits.*