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*Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and Readiness  
(EMPOWER) for Health Act – H.R. 2781*

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**Representative Jan Schakowsky (D-IL) and Michael Burgess (R-TX)**

**SEC. 1—SHORT TITLE.**

**SEC. 2—REAUTHORIZATION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS WORKFORCE PROGRAMS**

Reauthorizes the following Title VII health professions education and training programs from Fiscal Year 2020 through Fiscal Year 2024:

- **CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE (42 U.S.C. § 293)**
  - The Centers of Excellence (COE) program award recipients serve as innovative resource and education centers to recruit, train, and retain underrepresented minority (URM) students and faculty at health professions schools. COE programs improve information resources, clinical education, curricula, and cultural and linguistic competence as they relate to minority health issues and social determinants of health. These award recipients also focus on facilitating faculty and student research on health issues particularly affecting URM groups. The ultimate goal of the program is to strengthen the national capacity to produce a quality healthcare workforce whose racial and ethnic diversity is representative of the U.S. population. **For this program, the legislation authorizes \$24,897,000 for each of Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 through 2024.**
- **HEALTH PROFESSIONALS TRAINING FOR DIVERSITY (42 U.S.C. § 293d)**
  - Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students, Loan Repayments and Fellowships Regarding Faculty Positions, and the Health Careers Opportunity Program provide health professional training for disadvantaged students through scholarships, loan repayments and fellowships, and educational assistance in health professions. These programs have assisted students from minority and economically disadvantaged backgrounds to enter the health professions for decades by focusing on student development, retention, matriculation, and graduation. **For this training, the legislation authorizes \$51,419,000, \$1,250,000, and \$14,899,000 for each of these programs for each of FY 2020 through 2024.**
- **PRIMARY CARE TRAINING AND ENHANCEMENT (42 U.S.C. § 293k(c)(1))**
  - These grants create accredited professional training programs, including residency or internship programs in the field of family medicine, general internal medicine, or general pediatrics, and provide need-based financial assistance. **For these grants, the legislation authorizes \$51,371,000 for each of FY 2020 through 2024.**
- **TRAINING IN PUBLIC HEALTH DENTISTRY (42 U.S.C. § 293k-2 (f))**
  - This program awards grants to develop training programs in and provide financial assistance to dental students in general dentistry, pediatric dentistry, or public health dentistry; residents; practicing dentists; dental hygienists; or other approved primary care dental trainees. The program emphasizes training for general, pediatric, or public health dentistry; serves to increase the number of medical graduates from minority and disadvantaged backgrounds; and encourages students and residents to choose primary care fields and to practice in underserved urban and rural area. **For these grants, the legislation authorizes \$42,707,000 for each of FY 2020 through 2024.**

- AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS (42 U.S.C. § 13 294a(j)(1))
  - This program develops and enhances education and training networks within communities, academic institutions, and community-based organizations. In turn, these networks support the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Bureau of Health Workforce’s strategic priorities to increase diversity among health professionals; broaden the distribution of the health workforce; enhance health care quality; and improve health care delivery to rural and underserved areas and populations. **For this program, the legislation authorizes \$42,075,000 for each of FY 2020 through 2024.**
- NATIONAL CENTER FOR HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE ANALYSIS (42 U.S.C. § 294n(e)(1)(A))
  - The Center is essential to develop information describing the health professions workforce; to analyze workforce related issues; and to provide necessary information for decision-making regarding future directions in health professions and nursing programs in response to societal and professional needs. **To fund this work, this legislation authorizes \$5,947,000 for each of FY 2020 through 2024.**
- PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE (42 U.S.C. § 295e(a))
  - The Secretary may award grants to eligible entities to enhance the quality of the public health workforce and to enhance the ability of the workforce to meet national, State, and local health care needs. The grants prioritize underrepresented racial and ethnic minorities and individuals dedicated to serving in underserved communities. **For these grants, the legislation authorizes \$17,850,000 for each of FY 2020 through 2024.**

### **SEC. 3—EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATING TO GERIATRICS**

- EDUCATION AND TRAINING RELATING TO GERIATRICS (42 U.S.C. § 294c)
  - The Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program (GWEP) and the Geriatrics Academic Career Awards (GACAs) program provide grants for training across the provider continuum to integrate geriatrics and primary care delivery systems. GWEPs and GACAs address the extreme shortage of health professionals expertly trained to care for the rapidly growing and diverse population of older Americans, and also advance supports for older adults, caregivers, and the interprofessional teams responsible for delivering high quality care. **This legislation reflects current HRSA practices of awarding grants and collectively authorizes GWEPs and GACAs for \$51,000,000.**

### **SEC. 4—INVESTMENT IN TOMORROW’S PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE**

- PEDIATRIC HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE (42 U.S.C. § 295f)
  - This is a loan repayment program for health professionals agreeing to serve at least two years in pediatric medical subspecialties, pediatric surgical specialties, or child and adolescent mental and behavioral health. Eligible individuals must agree to work in a health professional shortage area or medically underserved area, or to serve a medically underserved population, with priority for school settings. Eligible individuals must also have familiarity with evidence-based methods and cultural and linguistic competence health care services and demonstrate financial need. Awardees receive up to \$35,000 for each year of service, up to three years. **For pediatric medical subspecialists and pediatric surgical specialists, the legislation authorizes \$30,000,000 for each of FY 2020 through 2024, and for child and adolescent mental and behavioral health professionals, the legislation authorizes \$20,000,000 for each of FY 2020 through 2024.**