

105TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 487

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the health of individuals who are members of minority groups, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 21, 1997

Mr. RICHARDSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to the health of individuals who are members of minority groups, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.**

4 (a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the
5 “Minority Health Improvement Act of 1997”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—OFFICES OF MINORITY HEALTH; ASSISTANT
SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS

Sec. 101. Revision and extension of programs of Office of Minority Health.

- Sec. 102. Establishment of individual offices of minority health within agencies of Public Health Service.
- Sec. 103. Assistant Secretary of Health and Human Services for Civil Rights.

TITLE II—HEALTH PROFESSIONS PROGRAMS

- Sec. 201. Primary care scholarships for students from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- Sec. 202. Scholarships generally; certain other purposes.
- Sec. 203. Loan repayments and fellowships regarding faculty positions.
- Sec. 204. Centers of Excellence.
- Sec. 205. Educational assistance regarding undergraduates.
- Sec. 206. Student loans regarding schools of nursing.
- Sec. 207. Federally-supported student loans funds.
- Sec. 208. Area health education centers.

TITLE III—RESEARCH

- Sec. 301. Office of Research on Minority Health.
- Sec. 302. Activities of Agency for Health Care Policy and Research.
- Sec. 303. Data collection by National Center for Health Statistics.

1 **TITLE I—OFFICE OF MINORITY** 2 **HEALTH; ASSISTANT SEC-** 3 **RETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS**

4 **SEC. 101. REVISION AND EXTENSION OF PROGRAMS OF OF-** 5 **FICE OF MINORITY HEALTH.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1707 of the Public Health
 7 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u–6) is amended by striking
 8 subsection (b) and all that follows and inserting the follow-
 9 ing:

10 “(b) DUTIES.—With respect to improving the health
 11 of racial and ethnic minority groups, the Secretary, acting
 12 through the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority
 13 Health (in this section referred to as the ‘Deputy Assist-
 14 ant Secretary’), shall carry out the following:

15 “(1) Establish short-range and long-range goals
 16 and objectives and coordinate all other activities

1 within the Public Health Service that relate to dis-
2 ease prevention, health promotion, service delivery,
3 and research concerning such individuals. The heads
4 of each of the agencies of the Service shall consult
5 with the Deputy Assistant Secretary to ensure the
6 coordination of such activities.

7 “(2) Carry out the following types of activities
8 by entering into interagency agreements with other
9 agencies of the Public Health Service:

10 “(A) Support research, demonstrations and
11 evaluations to test new and innovative models.

12 “(B) Increase knowledge and understand-
13 ing of health risk factors.

14 “(C) Develop mechanisms that support
15 better information dissemination, education,
16 prevention, and service delivery to individuals
17 from disadvantaged backgrounds, including
18 individuals who are members of racial or ethnic
19 minority groups.

20 “(D) Ensure that the National Center for
21 Health Statistics collects data on the health
22 status of each minority group.

23 “(E) With respect to individuals who lack
24 proficiency in speaking the English language,
25 enter into contracts with public and nonprofit

1 private providers of primary health services for
2 the purpose of increasing the access of the indi-
3 viduals to such services by developing and car-
4 rying out programs to provide bilingual or in-
5 terpretive services.

6 “(3) Support a national minority health re-
7 source center to carry out the following:

8 “(A) Facilitate the exchange of informa-
9 tion regarding matters relating to health infor-
10 mation and health promotion, preventive health
11 services, and education in the appropriate use
12 of health care.

13 “(B) Facilitate access to such information.

14 “(C) Assist in the analysis of issues and
15 problems relating to such matters.

16 “(D) Provide technical assistance with re-
17 spect to the exchange of such information (in-
18 cluding facilitating the development of materials
19 for such technical assistance).

20 “(4) Carry out programs to improve access to
21 health care services for individuals with limited pro-
22 ficiency in speaking the English language by facili-
23 tating the removal of impediments to the receipt of
24 health care that result from such limitation. Activi-
25 ties under the preceding sentence shall include con-

1 ducting research and developing and evaluating
2 model projects.

3 “(5) Not later than June 8 of each year, the
4 Deputy Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Sec-
5 retary a report summarizing the activities of each of
6 the minority health offices under section 1707A.

7 “(c) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
9 lish an advisory committee to be known as the Advi-
10 sory Committee on Minority Health (in this sub-
11 section referred to as the ‘Committee’). The Deputy
12 Assistant Secretary shall consult with the Committee
13 in carrying out this section.

14 “(2) DUTIES.—The Committee shall provide
15 advice to the Deputy Assistant Secretary carrying
16 out this section, including advice on the development
17 of goals and specific program activities under para-
18 graphs (1) and (2) of subsection (b) for each racial
19 and ethnic minority group.

20 “(3) CHAIR.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary
21 shall serve as the chair of the Committee.

22 “(4) COMPOSITION.—

23 “(A) The Committee shall be composed of
24 12 voting members appointed in accordance
25 with subparagraph (B), and nonvoting, ex

1 officio members designated in subparagraph
2 (C).

3 “(B) The voting members of the Commit-
4 tee shall be appointed by the Secretary from
5 among individuals who are not officers or em-
6 ployees of the Federal Government and who
7 have expertise regarding issues of minority
8 health. The racial and ethnic minority groups
9 shall be equally represented among such mem-
10 bers.

11 “(C) The nonvoting, ex officio members of
12 the Committee shall be the directors of each of
13 the minority health offices established under
14 section 1707A, and such additional officials of
15 the Department of Health and Human Services
16 as the Secretary determines to be appropriate.

17 “(5) TERMS.—Each member of the Committee
18 shall serve for a term of 4 years, except that the
19 Secretary shall initially appoint a portion of the
20 members to terms of 1 year, 2 years, and 3 years.

21 “(6) VACANCIES.—If a vacancy occurs on the
22 Committee, a new member shall be appointed by the
23 Secretary within 90 days from the date that the va-
24 cancy occurs, and serve for the remainder of the
25 term for which the predecessor of such member was

1 appointed. The vacancy shall not affect the power of
2 the remaining members to execute the duties of the
3 Committee.

4 “(7) COMPENSATION.—Members of the Com-
5 mittee who are officers or employees of the United
6 States shall serve without compensation. Members of
7 the Committee who are not officers or employees of
8 the United States shall receive, for each day (includ-
9 ing travel time) they are engaged in the performance
10 of the functions of the Committee. Such compensa-
11 tion may not be in an amount in excess of the daily
12 equivalent of the annual maximum rate of basic pay
13 payable under the General Schedule (under title 5,
14 United States Code) for positions above GS–15.

15 “(d) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS REGARDING DU-
16 TIES.—

17 “(1) RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING LAN-
18 GUAGE AS IMPEDIMENT TO HEALTH CARE.—The
19 Secretary, acting through the Director of the Office
20 of Refugee Health, the Director of the Office of Civil
21 Rights, and the Director of the Office of Minority
22 Health of the Health Resources and Services Admin-
23 istration, shall make recommendations to the Deputy
24 Assistant Secretary regarding activities under sub-
25 section (b)(4).

1 “(2) **EQUITABLE ALLOCATION REGARDING AC-**
2 **TIVITIES.—**

3 “(A) In making awards of grants, coopera-
4 tive agreements, or contracts under this section
5 or section 338A, 338B, 340A, 404, 724, 736,
6 737, 738, or 740, the Secretary, acting as ap-
7 propriate through the Deputy Assistant Sec-
8 retary or the Administrator of the Health Re-
9 sources and Services Administration, shall en-
10 sure that such awards are equitably allocated
11 with respect to the various racial and minority
12 populations.

13 “(B) With respect to grants, cooperative
14 agreements, and contracts that are available
15 under the sections specified in subparagraph
16 (A), the Secretary shall—

17 “(i) carry out activities to inform enti-
18 ties, as appropriate, that the entities may
19 be eligible for awards of such assistance;

20 “(ii) provide technical assistance to
21 such entities in the process of preparing
22 and submitting applications for the awards
23 in accordance with the policies of the Sec-
24 retary regarding such application; and

1 “(iii) inform populations, as appro-
2 priate, that members of the populations
3 may be eligible to receive services or other-
4 wise participate in the activities carried out
5 with such awards.

6 “(3) CULTURAL COMPETENCY OF SERVICES.—
7 The Secretary shall ensure that information and
8 services provided pursuant to subsection (b) are pro-
9 vided in the language and cultural context that is
10 most appropriate for the individuals for whom the
11 information and services are intended.

12 “(e) GRANTS AND CONTRACTS REGARDING DU-
13 TIES.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out subsection
15 (b), the Deputy Assistant Secretary may make
16 awards of grants, cooperative agreements, and con-
17 tracts to public and nonprofit private entities.

18 “(2) PROCESS FOR MAKING AWARDS.—The
19 Deputy Assistant Secretary shall ensure that awards
20 under paragraph (1) are made only on a competitive
21 basis, and that an award is made for a proposal only
22 if the proposal has been recommended for such an
23 award through a process of peer review and has been
24 so recommended by the advisory committee estab-
25 lished under subsection (c).

1 “(3) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.—The
2 Deputy Assistant Secretary, directly or through con-
3 tracts with public and private entities, shall provide
4 for evaluations of projects carried out with awards
5 made under paragraph (1) during the preceding 2
6 fiscal years. The report shall be included in the re-
7 port required under subsection (f) for the fiscal year
8 involved.

9 “(f) BIENNIAL REPORTS.—Not later than February
10 1 of fiscal year 1998 and of each second year thereafter,
11 the Deputy Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Com-
12 mittee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Rep-
13 resentatives, and to the Committee on Labor and Human
14 Resources of the Senate, a report describing the activities
15 carried out under this section during the preceding 2 fiscal
16 years and evaluating the extent to which such activities
17 have been effective in improving the health of racial and
18 ethnic minority groups. Each such report shall include the
19 biennial reports submitted to the Deputy Assistant Sec-
20 retary under section 1707A(e) for such years by the heads
21 of the minority health offices.

22 “(g) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this section:

23 “(1) The term ‘racial and ethnic minority
24 group’ means American Indians (including Alaskan

1 Natives, Eskimos, and Aleuts); Asian Americans and
2 Pacific Islanders; Blacks; and Hispanics.

3 “(2) The term ‘Hispanic’ means individuals
4 whose origin is Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban,
5 Central or South American, or any other Spanish-
6 speaking country.

7 “(h) FUNDING.—

8 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
9 For the purpose of carrying out this section, there
10 are authorized to be appropriated \$21,000,000 for
11 fiscal year 1998, \$25,000,000 for fiscal year 1999,
12 and \$28,000,000 for fiscal year 2000.

13 “(2) ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BY SECRETARY.—
14 Of the amounts appropriated under paragraph (1)
15 for a fiscal year in excess of \$15,000,000, the Sec-
16 retary shall make available not less than \$3,000,000
17 for carrying out subsection (b)(2)(E).”.

18 (b) MISCELLANEOUS AMENDMENT.—Section 1707 of
19 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300u-6) is
20 amended in the heading for the section by striking “ES-
21 TABLISHMENT OF”.

1 **SEC. 102. ESTABLISHMENT OF INDIVIDUAL OFFICES OF MI-**
2 **NORITY HEALTH WITHIN AGENCIES OF PUB-**
3 **LIC HEALTH SERVICE.**

4 Title XVII of the Public Health Service Act (42
5 U.S.C. 300u et seq.) is amended by inserting after section
6 1707 the following section:

7 “INDIVIDUAL OFFICES OF MINORITY HEALTH WITHIN
8 PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE

9 “SEC. 1707A. (a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each
10 agency specified in subsection (b)(1) shall establish within
11 the agency an office to be known as the Office of Minority
12 Health. Each such Office shall be headed by a director,
13 who shall be appointed by the head of the agency within
14 which the Office is established, and who shall report di-
15 rectly to the head of the agency. The head of such agency
16 shall carry out this section (as this section relates to the
17 agency) acting through such Director.

18 “(b) SPECIFIED AGENCIES.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The agencies referred to in
20 subsection (a) are the following:

21 “(A) The Centers for Disease Control and
22 Prevention.

23 “(B) The Agency for Health Care Policy
24 and Research.

25 “(C) The Health Resources and Services
26 Administration.

1 “(D) The Substance Abuse and Mental
2 Health Services Administration.

3 “(2) NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH.—For
4 purposes of subsection (c) and the subsequent provi-
5 sions of this section, the term ‘minority health office’
6 includes the Office of Research on Minority Health
7 established within the National Institutes of Health.
8 The Director of the National Institutes of Health
9 shall carry out this section (as this section relates to
10 the agency) acting through the Director of such Of-
11 fice.

12 “(c) COMPOSITION.—The head of each specified
13 agency shall ensure that the officers and employees of the
14 minority health office of the agency are, collectively, expe-
15 rienced in carrying out community-based health programs
16 for each of the various racial and ethnic minority groups
17 that are present in significant numbers in the United
18 States. The head of such agency shall ensure that, of such
19 officers and employees who are members of racial and eth-
20 nic minority groups, no such group is disproportionately
21 represented.

22 “(d) DUTIES.—Each Director of a minority health of-
23 fice shall monitor the programs of the specified agency of
24 such office in order to carry out the following:

1 “(1) Determine the extent to which the pur-
2 poses of the programs are being carried out with re-
3 spect to racial and ethnic minority groups;

4 “(2) Determine the extent to which members of
5 such groups are represented among the Federal offi-
6 cers and employees who administer the programs;
7 and

8 “(3) Make recommendations to the head of
9 such agency on carrying out the programs with re-
10 spect to such groups. In the case of programs that
11 provide services, such recommendations shall include
12 recommendations toward ensuring that—

13 “(A) the services are equitably delivered
14 with respect to racial and ethnic minority
15 groups;

16 “(B) the programs provide the services in
17 the language and cultural context that is most
18 appropriate for the individuals for whom the
19 services are intended; and

20 “(C) the programs utilize racial and ethnic
21 minority community-based organizations to de-
22 liver the services.

23 “(e) BIENNIAL REPORTS TO SECRETARY.—The head
24 of each specified agency shall submit to the Secretary for

1 inclusion in each biennial report under section 1707(g)
2 (without change) a biennial report describing—

3 “(1) the extent to which the minority health of-
4 fice of the agency employs individuals who are mem-
5 bers of racial and ethnic minority groups, including
6 a specification by minority group of the number of
7 such individuals employed by such office; and

8 “(2) the manner in which the agency is comply-
9 ing with Public Law 94–311 (relating to data on
10 Americans of Spanish origin or descent).

11 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

12 “(1) The term ‘minority health office’ means an
13 office established under subsection (a), subject to
14 subsection (b)(2).

15 “(2) The term ‘racial and ethnic minority
16 group’ has the meaning given such term in section
17 1707(g).

18 “(3) The term ‘specified agency’ means—

19 “(A) an agency specified in subsection
20 (b)(1); and

21 “(B) the National Institutes of Health.

22 “(g) FUNDING.—

23 “(1) ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amounts appro-
24 priated for a specified agency for a fiscal year, the
25 Secretary may reserve not more than 0.5 percent for

1 the purpose of carrying out activities under this sec-
2 tion through the minority health office of the agen-
3 cy. In reserving an amount under the preceding sen-
4 tence for a minority health office for a fiscal year,
5 the Secretary shall reduce, by substantially the same
6 percentage, the amount that otherwise would be
7 available for each of the programs of the designated
8 agency involved.

9 “(2) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS FOR STAFF-
10 ING.—The purposes for which amounts made avail-
11 able under paragraph (1) may be expended by a mi-
12 nority health office include the costs of employing
13 staff for such office.”.

14 **SEC. 103. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN**
15 **SERVICES FOR CIVIL RIGHTS.**

16 (a) IN GENERAL.—Part A of title II of the Public
17 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 202 et seq.) is amended
18 by adding at the end the following new section:

19 “ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR CIVIL RIGHTS
20 “SEC. 229. (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF POSITION.—
21 There shall be in the Department of Health and Human
22 Services an Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, who shall
23 be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and
24 consent of the Senate.

1 “(1) The individual is from a disadvantaged
2 background.

3 “(2) The individual has a financial need for a
4 scholarship under such subsection.

5 “(3) The individual is enrolled (or accepted for
6 enrollment) at an eligible school as a full-time stu-
7 dent in a program leading to a degree in a health
8 profession.

9 “(4) The individual enters into the contract re-
10 quired pursuant to subsection (d) as a condition of
11 receiving the scholarship (relating to an agreement
12 to provide primary health services in a health profes-
13 sional shortage area designated under section 332).

14 “(c) PREFERENCES REGARDING AWARDS.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding scholarships
16 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give pref-
17 erence to eligible individuals for whom the costs of
18 attending the school involved would constitute a se-
19 vere financial hardship.

20 “(2) ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES.—Of the eligi-
21 ble individuals receiving preference for purposes of
22 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give additional
23 preference to individuals meeting any of the follow-
24 ing conditions:

1 “(A) The individuals received scholarships
2 pursuant to this section, section 737, or section
3 740(d)(2) for fiscal year 1997.

4 “(B) The individuals are seeking scholar-
5 ships for attendance at eligible schools that re-
6 ceived a grant under any of such sections for
7 such fiscal year.

8 “(C) The individuals are bilingual.

9 “(D) The individuals participate in a pro-
10 gram or activity carried out under section 739
11 by a grantee under such section.

12 “(d) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—

13 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
14 graph (2), and except as otherwise inconsistent with
15 this section, the provisions of subpart III of part D
16 of title III apply to an award of a scholarship under
17 subsection (a) to the same extent and in the same
18 manner as such provisions apply to an award of a
19 scholarship under section 338A. This section shall
20 be carried out by the bureau that administers such
21 subpart III.

22 “(2) OPTION REGARDING CERTAIN MEDICAL
23 FIELDS.—

24 “(A) With respect to amounts that the
25 Secretary reserves for scholarships under sub-

1 section (a) for attendance at schools of medi-
2 cine or osteopathic medicine, the Secretary shall
3 obligate 30 percent for such scholarships for in-
4 dividuals whose contracts made pursuant to
5 paragraph (1) provide to the individuals, sub-
6 ject to subparagraph (B), the option of per-
7 forming obligated service under the contract in
8 a medical field not providing primary health
9 services.

10 “(B) In the case of an individual whose
11 contract made pursuant to paragraph (1) pro-
12 vides the option described in subparagraph (A),
13 the contract shall provide that, in the event that
14 the individual exercises the option, the period of
15 obligated service applicable under the contract
16 is 2 years for each school year for which the
17 scholarship involved is provided.

18 “(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

19 “(1) The term ‘eligible individual’ means an in-
20 dividual described in subsection (b).

21 “(2) The term ‘eligible school’ means a school
22 or program specified in subsection (a).

23 “(f) FUNDING.—

24 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

25 For the purpose of carrying out this section, there

1 are authorized to be appropriated \$25,000,000 for
2 fiscal year 1998, \$38,000,000 for fiscal year 1999,
3 and \$48,000,000 for fiscal year 2000. Such author-
4 ization is in addition to the authorization of appro-
5 priations established in section 740(f)(2)(B).

6 “(2) ALLOCATIONS BY SECRETARY.—

7 “(A) Of the amounts appropriated under
8 paragraph (1) for a fiscal year and of the
9 amounts available under section 740(f)(2)(B)
10 for the year, the Secretary shall obligate
11 amounts in accordance with the following:

12 “(i) 19 percent shall be obligated for
13 scholarships under subsection (a) for at-
14 tendance at schools of dentistry.

15 “(ii) 16 percent shall be obligated for
16 scholarships under such subsection for at-
17 tendance at schools of nursing.

18 “(iii) 10 percent shall be obligated for
19 scholarships under such subsection for at-
20 tendance at graduate programs in mental
21 health practice.

22 “(B) The requirements of subparagraph
23 (A) apply only to the extent that a sufficient
24 number of eligible individuals seeks the scholar-
25 ships involved.”.

1 (b) CERTAIN PROGRAMS OF OBLIGATED SERVICE.—

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

4 (2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Paragraph (1)
5 does not terminate agreements that, on the day be-
6 fore the effective date under section 901, are in ef-
7 fect pursuant to section 795 of the Public Health
8 Service Act. Such agreements continue in effect in
9 accordance with the terms of the agreements. With
10 respect to compliance with such agreements, any pe-
11 riod of practice as a provider of primary health serv-
12 ices (whether provided pursuant to other agreements
13 with the Federal Government or whether provided
14 otherwise) counts toward satisfaction of the require-
15 ment of practice pursuant to such section 795.

16 **SEC. 202. SCHOLARSHIPS GENERALLY; CERTAIN OTHER**
17 **PURPOSES.**

18 Section 737 of the Public Health Service Act (42
19 U.S.C. 293a) is amended to read as follows:

20 **“SEC. 737. THURGOOD MARSHALL PROGRAM FOR HEALTH**
21 **SERVICES SCHOLARSHIPS.**

22 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may in accord-
23 ance with this section award scholarships to individuals
24 described in subsection (b) for the purpose of assisting the

1 individuals with the costs of attending the health profes-
2 sions schools described in subsection (c).

3 “(b) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS.—An individual re-
4 ferred to in subsection (a) is any individual meeting the
5 following conditions:

6 “(1) The individual is from a disadvantaged
7 background.

8 “(2) The individual has a financial need for a
9 scholarship under such subsection.

10 “(3) The individual is enrolled (or accepted for
11 enrollment) at an eligible school as a full-time stu-
12 dent in a program leading to a degree in a health
13 profession.

14 “(4) The individual enters into the contract re-
15 quired pursuant to subsection (e) as a condition of
16 receiving the scholarship (relating to an agreement
17 to provide primary health services in a health profes-
18 sional shortage area designated under section 332).

19 “(c) ELIGIBLE SCHOOLS.—A health professions
20 school referred to in subsection (a) is a health professions
21 school meeting the following conditions:

22 “(1) The school is a school of veterinary medi-
23 cine, optometry, pharmacy, podiatric medicine, or
24 public health, or a designated school of allied health
25 (as defined in subsection (f)).

1 “(2) The school is carrying out a program for
2 recruiting and retaining students from disadvan-
3 tagged backgrounds, including students who are
4 members of racial and ethnic minority groups.

5 “(d) PREFERENCES REGARDING AWARDS.—

6 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In awarding scholarships
7 under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give pref-
8 erence to eligible individuals for whom the costs of
9 attending the school involved would constitute a se-
10 vere financial hardship.

11 “(2) ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES.—Of the eligi-
12 ble individuals receiving preference for purposes of
13 paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give additional
14 preference to individuals meeting any of the follow-
15 ing conditions:

16 “(A) The individuals received scholarships
17 pursuant to this section for fiscal year 1997.

18 “(B) The individuals are seeking scholar-
19 ships for attendance at eligible schools that re-
20 ceived a grant under this section for such fiscal
21 year.

22 “(C) The individuals are bilingual.

23 “(D) The individuals participate in a pro-
24 gram or activity carried out under section 739
25 by a grantee under such section.

1 “(e) APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
3 graph (2), and except as otherwise inconsistent with
4 this section, the provisions of subpart III of part D
5 of title III apply to an award of a scholarship under
6 subsection (a) to the same extent and in the same
7 manner as such provisions apply to an award of a
8 scholarship under section 338A.

9 “(2) CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.—

10 “(A) In the case of an individual who re-
11 ceives a scholarship under subsection (a) for at-
12 tendance at a school of veterinary medicine, the
13 contract made pursuant to paragraph (1) shall
14 provide that the individual agrees that, after
15 completing training in such medicine, the indi-
16 vidual will, in accordance with requirements es-
17 tablished under subparagraph (B)—

18 “(i) serve in a position in which the
19 individual conducts or assists in the con-
20 duct of research regarding human health
21 or safety; or

22 “(ii) serve in a position with a public
23 health agency of a State or a political sub-
24 division of a State.

1 “(B) The Secretary shall establish require-
2 ments regarding contracts under subparagraph
3 (A).

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

5 “(1) The term ‘designated school of allied
6 health’ means a school of allied health providing
7 training in occupational therapy, physical therapy,
8 dental hygiene, medical technology, or radiologic
9 technology.

10 “(2) The term ‘eligible individual’ means an in-
11 dividual described in subsection (b).

12 “(3) The term ‘eligible school’ means a school
13 described in subsection (c).

14 “(g) FUNDING.—

15 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
16 For the purpose of carrying out this section, there
17 are authorized to be appropriated \$5,000,000 for
18 fiscal year 1998, \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 1999,
19 and \$10,000,000 for fiscal year 2000.

20 “(2) ALLOCATIONS BY SECRETARY.—With re-
21 spect to scholarships under subsection (a) for at-
22 tendance at designated schools of allied health, the
23 Secretary shall obligate for such scholarships 25 per-
24 cent of the amounts appropriated under paragraph
25 (1) for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2000.

1 The requirement of the preceding sentence applies
2 only to the extent that a sufficient number of eligible
3 individuals seeks such scholarships.”.

4 **SEC. 203. LOAN REPAYMENTS AND FELLOWSHIPS REGARD-**
5 **ING FACULTY POSITIONS.**

6 (a) LOAN REPAYMENTS.—Section 738(a) of the Pub-
7 lic Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293b(a)) is amended—

8 (1) by striking paragraphs (4) and (6);

9 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (5) and (7) as
10 paragraphs (4) and (5), respectively; and

11 (3) in paragraph (4) (as so redesignated), by
12 amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

13 “(B) the contract referred to in subpara-
14 graph (A) provides that the school, in making
15 a determination of the amount of compensation
16 to be provided by the school to the individual
17 for serving as a member of the faculty, will
18 make the determination without regard to the
19 amount of payments made (or to be made) to
20 the individual by the Federal Government under
21 paragraph (1).”.

22 (b) FELLOWSHIPS.—

23 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 738(b) of the Public
24 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293b(b)) is amend-
25 ed—

1 (A) in paragraph (2)(B), by striking
2 “\$30,000” and inserting “\$50,000”; and

3 (B) in paragraph (3)—

4 (i) in subparagraph (B), by inserting
5 “and” after the semicolon at the end;

6 (ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking
7 “; and” and inserting a period; and

8 (iii) by striking subparagraph (D).

9 (2) DEFINITION.—Section 738(b) of the Public
10 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293b(b)) is amend-
11 ed—

12 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “the
13 number” and all that follows and inserting the
14 following: “the number of underrepresented mi-
15 nority individuals who are members of the fac-
16 ulty of the schools.”;

17 (B) in paragraph (3)(A), by striking “indi-
18 viduals from underrepresented minorities in the
19 health professions” and inserting “underrep-
20 resented minority individuals”; and

21 (C) in paragraph (5), by striking “the
22 term” and all that follows and inserting the fol-
23 lowing: “the term ‘underrepresented minority
24 individuals’ means individuals who are members

1 of racial or ethnic minority groups that are
2 underrepresented in the health professions.”.

3 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
4 738(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
5 293b(c)) is amended by striking “there is” and all that
6 follows and inserting the following: “there is authorized
7 to be appropriated \$1,100,000 for each of the fiscal years
8 1998 through 2000.”.

9 **SEC. 204. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.**

10 (a) REFERENCES TO SCHOOLS.—Section 739 of the
11 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293c) is amended—

12 (1) by striking “health professions schools”
13 each place such term appears and inserting “des-
14 ignated health professions schools”; and

15 (2) by striking “health professions school” each
16 place such term appears and inserting “designated
17 health professions school”.

18 (b) REQUIRED USES OF FUNDS.—Section 739(b) of
19 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293c(b)), as
20 amended by subsection (a), is amended—

21 (1) by striking paragraph (2);

22 (2) by redesignating paragraph (1) as para-
23 graph (2);

24 (3) by inserting before paragraph (2) (as so re-
25 designated) the following paragraph:

1 “(1) to collaborate with public and nonprofit
2 private entities to carry out community-based pro-
3 grams to interest students of secondary schools and
4 institutions of higher education in pursuing careers
5 in the health professions, and to prepare interested
6 students academically for such careers;”;

7 (4) in paragraph (5)—

8 (A) by striking “faculty and student re-
9 search” and inserting “student research”; and

10 (B) by inserting before the period the fol-
11 lowing: “, including research on issues relating
12 to the delivery of health care”; and

13 (5)(A) in paragraph (4), by striking “and”
14 after the semicolon at the end;

15 (B) in paragraph (5), by striking the period at
16 the end and inserting “; and”; and

17 (C) by adding at the end the following para-
18 graph:

19 “(6) to carry out a program to train students
20 of the school in providing health services through
21 training provided at community-based health facili-
22 ties that provide such services to a significant num-
23 ber of disadvantaged individuals and that are located
24 at a site remote from the main site of the teaching
25 facilities of the school.”.

1 (c) REQUIREMENTS REGARDING CONSORTIA.—

2 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 739(c)(1) of the
3 Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293c(c)(1)), as
4 amended by subsection (a), is amended—

5 (A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter
6 preceding clause (i), by striking “specified in
7 subparagraph (B)” and inserting “specified in
8 subparagraphs (B) and (C)”;

9 (B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as
10 subparagraph (D); and

11 (C) by inserting after subparagraph (B)
12 the following subparagraph:

13 “(C) The condition specified in this sub-
14 paragraph is that, in accordance with sub-
15 section (e)(1), the designated health professions
16 school involved has with other health profession
17 schools (designated or otherwise) formed a con-
18 sortium to carry out the purposes described in
19 subsection (b) at the schools of the consortium.
20 The grant involved may be expended with re-
21 spect to the other schools without regard to
22 whether such schools meet the conditions speci-
23 fied in subparagraph (B).”.

24 (2) CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS.—Section 739(e)
25 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.

1 293c(e)), as amended by subsection (a), is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 “(e) PROVISIONS REGARDING CONSORTIA.—

4 “(1) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of sub-
5 section (c)(1)(C), a consortium of schools has been
6 formed in accordance with this subsection if—

7 “(A) the consortium consists of—

8 “(i) the designated health professions
9 school seeking the grant under subsection
10 (a); and

11 “(ii) 1 or more schools of medicine,
12 osteopathic medicine, dentistry, pharmacy,
13 nursing, allied health, or public health, or
14 graduate programs in mental health prac-
15 tice;

16 “(B) the schools of the consortium have
17 entered into an agreement for the allocation of
18 such grant among the schools; and

19 “(C) each of the schools agrees to expend
20 the grant in accordance with this section.

21 “(2) AUTHORITY REGARDING NATIVE AMERI-
22 CANS CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.—With respect to
23 meeting the conditions specified in subsection (c)(4),
24 the Secretary may make a grant under subsection

1 (a) to a designated health professions school that
2 does not meet such conditions if—

3 “(A) the school has formed a consortium
4 in accordance with paragraph (1); and

5 “(B) the schools of the consortium collec-
6 tively meet such conditions, without regard to
7 whether the schools individually meet such con-
8 ditions.”.

9 (3) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 739
10 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293c),
11 as amended by subsection (a), is amended—

12 (A) in subsection (b), in the matter preced-
13 ing paragraph (1), by inserting “, subject to
14 subsection (c)(1)(C),” after “agrees”; and

15 (B) in subsection (d)—

16 (i) in paragraph (3), by striking “(e)”
17 and inserting “(e)(2)”; and

18 (ii) by adding at the end the following
19 paragraph:

20 “(4) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as pro-
21 vided in paragraph (3) regarding a consortium
22 under subsection (e)(2), a health professions school
23 that does not meet the conditions specified in sub-
24 section (c)(1)(B) may not be designated as a center
25 of excellence for purposes of this section. The pre-

1 ceding sentence applies without regard to whether a
2 grant under subsection (a) is, pursuant to subsection
3 (c)(1)(C), being expended with respect to the
4 school.”.

5 (d) DEFINITION OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
6 SCHOOL.—

7 (1) GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN MENTAL HEALTH
8 PRACTICE.—Section 739(h)(1)(A) of the Public
9 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293c(h)(1)(A)), as
10 amended by subsection (a), is amended by—

11 (A) by striking “or” after “dentistry”; and

12 (B) by inserting before the period the fol-
13 lowing: “, or a graduate program in mental
14 health practice”.

15 (2) LIMITATION.—During the fiscal years 1998
16 through 2000, the Secretary of Health and Human
17 Services may not make more than one grant under
18 section 739 of the Public Health Service Act directly
19 to a graduate program in mental health practice (as
20 defined in section 799 of such Act).

21 (e) FUNDING.—Section 739(i) of the Public Health
22 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293c(i)), as amended by subsection
23 (a), is amended to read as follows:

24 “(i) FUNDING.—

1 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
2 For the purpose of making grants under subsection
3 (a), there are authorized to be appropriated
4 \$24,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, \$28,000,000 for
5 fiscal year 1999, and \$33,000,000 for fiscal year
6 2000.

7 “(2) ALLOCATIONS BY SECRETARY.—

8 “(A) Of the amounts appropriated under
9 paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary
10 shall make available \$12,000,000 for grants
11 under subsection (a) to health professions
12 schools that are eligible for such grants pursu-
13 ant to meeting the conditions described in para-
14 graph (2)(A) of subsection (c).

15 “(B) Of the amounts appropriated under
16 paragraph (1) for a fiscal year and available
17 after compliance with subparagraph (A), the
18 Secretary shall make available 65 percent for
19 grants under subsection (a) to health profes-
20 sions schools that are eligible for such grants
21 pursuant to meeting the conditions described in
22 paragraph (3) or (4) of subsection (c) (includ-
23 ing meeting conditions pursuant to subsection
24 (e)(2)).

1 “(C)(i) Of the amounts appropriated under
2 paragraph (1) for a fiscal year and available
3 after compliance with subparagraph (A), the
4 Secretary shall make available 35 percent for
5 grants under subsection (a) to health profes-
6 sions schools that are eligible for such grants
7 pursuant to meeting the conditions described in
8 paragraph (5) of subsection (c).

9 “(ii) With respect to a fiscal year, a grant
10 under subsection (a) that includes amounts
11 available under subparagraph (A) may not in-
12 clude amounts available under clause (i) unless
13 each of the following conditions is met:

14 “(I) In the case of amounts available
15 under subparagraph (B) or clause (i) and
16 included in grants made pursuant to sub-
17 section (c)(3), the aggregate number of
18 such grants is not less than such aggregate
19 number for the preceding fiscal year, and
20 one or more of such grants is made in an
21 amount that is not less than the lowest
22 amount among grants made from amounts
23 available under subparagraph (A).

24 “(II) In the case of amounts available
25 under subparagraph (B) or clause (i) and

1 included in grants made pursuant to sub-
2 section (c)(4), the aggregate number of
3 such grants is not less than such aggregate
4 number for the preceding fiscal year, and
5 one or more of such grants is made in an
6 amount that is not less than the lowest
7 amount among grants made from amounts
8 available under subparagraph (A).

9 “(III) In the case of amounts avail-
10 able under clause (i) and included in
11 grants made pursuant to subsection (c)(5)
12 (exclusive of grants that include amounts
13 available under subparagraph (A) or (B)),
14 the aggregate number of such grants is not
15 less than such aggregate number for the
16 preceding fiscal year, and one or more of
17 such grants is made in an amount that is
18 not less than the lowest amount among
19 grants made from amounts available under
20 subparagraph (A).

21 “(IV) The aggregate amount of
22 grants under subsection (a) made from
23 amounts available under subparagraph (B)
24 and clause (i) (other than grants that in-
25 clude amounts available under subpara-

1 graph (A)) is, in the case of fiscal year
2 1998, not less than the sum of such aggregate
3 amount for fiscal year 1997 and the
4 total amount by which grants are required
5 under subclauses (I) through (III) to be in-
6 creased; and is, in the case of fiscal year
7 1999 and each subsequent fiscal year, not
8 less than such aggregate amount for the
9 preceding fiscal year.”.

10 (f) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 739(e) of
11 the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293c(e)), as
12 amended by subsection (a), is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (3)(B), by striking “the des-
14 ignated health professions school” and inserting
15 “the school”; and

16 (2) in paragraph (4), in each of subparagraphs
17 (B) and (C), by striking “the designated health pro-
18 fessions school” and inserting “the school”.

19 (g) TRANSITIONAL AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the period specified
21 in paragraph (2)—

22 (A) the amendments made by subsections
23 (a) through (f) do not apply to any entity that
24 received a grant for fiscal year 1997 under sec-
25 tion 739 of the Public Health Service Act; and

1 (B) such a grant to the entity for fiscal
2 year 1997 or subsequent fiscal years shall be
3 made and expended in accordance with the pro-
4 visions of such section as in effect on the day
5 before the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 (2) RELEVANT PERIOD.—In the case of an en-
7 tity that received a grant for fiscal year 1997 under
8 section 739 of the Public Health Service Act, the pe-
9 riod referred to in paragraph (1) is the period that,
10 in first approving the grant, the Secretary specified
11 as the duration of the grant.

12 **SEC. 205. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE REGARDING UNDER-**
13 **GRADUATES.**

14 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 740 of the Public Health
15 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293d) is amended to read as fol-
16 lows:

17 **“SEC. 740. HEALTH CAREERS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM.**

18 “(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to the provisions of this
19 section, the Secretary may make grants and enter into co-
20 operative agreements and contracts for any of the follow-
21 ing purposes:

22 “(1) Identifying and recruiting individuals
23 who—

1 “(A) are students of elementary schools, or
2 students or graduates of secondary schools or of
3 institutions of higher education;

4 “(B) are from disadvantaged backgrounds;
5 and

6 “(C) are interested in a career in the
7 health professions.

8 “(2) Facilitating the entry of such individuals
9 into a health professions school.

10 “(3) Providing counseling or other services de-
11 signed to assist such individuals in successfully com-
12 pleting their education at such a school.

13 “(4) Providing, for a period prior to the entry
14 of such individuals into the regular course of edu-
15 cation of such a school, preliminary education de-
16 signed to assist the individuals in successfully com-
17 pleting such regular course of education at such a
18 school, or referring such individuals to institutions
19 providing such preliminary education.

20 “(5) Paying such stipends as the Secretary may
21 approve for such individuals for any period of edu-
22 cation in student-enhancement programs (other than
23 regular courses) at a health professions schools, ex-
24 cept that such a stipend may not be provided to an
25 individual for more than 12 months, and such a sti-

1 pend may not exceed \$25 per day (notwithstanding
2 any other provision of law regarding the amount of
3 stipends).

4 “(6) Carrying out programs under which such
5 individuals both—

6 “(A) gain experience regarding a career in
7 a field of primary health care through working
8 at facilities of nonprofit private community-
9 based providers of primary health services; and

10 “(B) receive academic instruction to assist
11 in preparing the individuals to enter health pro-
12 fessions schools in such fields.

13 “(b) RECEIPT OF AWARD.—

14 “(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES; REQUIREMENT OF
15 CONSORTIUM.—The Secretary may make an award
16 under subsection (a) only if the following conditions
17 are met:

18 “(A) The applicant for the award is a pub-
19 lic or nonprofit private entity, and the applicant
20 has established a consortium consisting of non-
21 profit private community-based organizations
22 and health professions schools.

23 “(B) The health professions schools of the
24 consortium are schools of medicine or osteo-
25 pathic medicine, public health, dentistry, veteri-

1 nary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, allied
2 health, chiropractic, or podiatric medicine, or
3 graduate programs in mental health practice
4 (including such programs in clinical psychol-
5 ogy).

6 “(C) Except as provided in subparagraph
7 (D), the membership of the consortium includes
8 not less than one nonprofit private community-
9 based organization and not less than three
10 health professions schools.

11 “(D) In the case of an applicant whose ex-
12 clusive activity under the award will be carrying
13 out one or more programs described in sub-
14 section (a)(6), the membership of the consor-
15 tium includes not less than one nonprofit pri-
16 vate community-based organization and not less
17 than one health professions schools.

18 “(E) The members of the consortium have
19 entered into an agreement specifying—

20 “(i) that each of the members will
21 comply with the conditions upon which the
22 award is made; and

23 “(ii) whether and to what extent the
24 award will be allocated among the mem-
25 bers.

1 “(2) REQUIREMENT OF COMPETITIVE
2 AWARDS.—Awards under subsection (a) shall be
3 made only on a competitive basis.

4 “(c) FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS.—

5 “(1) ASSURANCES REGARDING CAPACITY.—The
6 Secretary may make an award under subsection (a)
7 only if the Secretary determines that, in the case of
8 activities carried out under the award that prove to
9 be effective toward achieving the purposes of the ac-
10 tivities—

11 “(A) the members of the consortium in-
12 volved have or will have the financial capacity
13 to continue the activities, regardless of whether
14 financial assistance under subsection (a) contin-
15 ues to be available; and

16 “(B) the members of the consortium dem-
17 onstrate to the satisfaction of the Secretary a
18 commitment to continue such activities, regard-
19 less of whether such assistance continues to be
20 available.

21 “(2) MATCHING FUNDS.—

22 “(A) With respect to the costs of the ac-
23 tivities to be carried out under subsection (a)
24 by an applicant, the Secretary may make an
25 award under such subsection only if the appli-

1 cant agrees to make available in cash (directly
2 or through donations from public or private en-
3 tities) non-Federal contributions toward such
4 costs in an amount that, for any fourth or sub-
5 sequent fiscal year for which the applicant re-
6 ceives such an award, is not less than 50 per-
7 cent of such costs.

8 “(B) Amounts provided by the Federal
9 Government may not be included in determin-
10 ing the amount of non-Federal contributions re-
11 quired in subparagraph (A).

12 “(C) The Secretary may not require non-
13 Federal contributions for the first three fiscal
14 years for which an applicant receives a grant
15 under subsection (a).

16 “(d) PREFERENCE IN MAKING AWARDS.—

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—

18 “(A) In making awards under subsection
19 (a), the Secretary shall, subject to paragraph
20 (3), give preference to any applicant that, for
21 the purpose described in subparagraph (B), has
22 made an arrangement with not less than one
23 entity from each of the following categories of
24 entities: Community-based organizations, ele-
25 mentary schools, secondary schools, institutions

1 of higher education, and health professions
2 schools.

3 “(B) The purpose of arrangements under
4 subparagraph (A) is to establish a program for
5 individuals identified under subsection (a)
6 under which—

7 “(i) the activities described in such
8 subsection are carried out on behalf of the
9 individuals; and

10 “(ii) health professions schools make
11 a commitment to admit as students of the
12 schools such individuals who participate in
13 the program, subject to the individuals
14 meeting reasonable academic standards for
15 admission to the schools.

16 “(2) ADDITIONAL PREFERENCES.—Of the ap-
17 plicants under subsection (a) that are receiving pref-
18 erence for purposes of paragraph (1), the Secretary
19 shall, subject to paragraph (3), give additional pref-
20 erence to applicants whose consortium under sub-
21 section (b) includes as members one or more health
22 professions schools that have not previously received
23 any award under this section (including this section
24 as in effect prior to fiscal year 1997).

1 “(3) LIMITATION.—An applicant may not re-
2 ceive preference for purposes of paragraph (1) or (2)
3 unless the consortium under subsection (b) includes
4 not less than one health professions school that has
5 demonstrated success in enrolling students from dis-
6 advantaged backgrounds.

7 “(e) OBJECTIVES UNDER AWARDS.—

8 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT OF OBJECTIVES.—Before
9 making a first award to an applicant under sub-
10 section (a), the Secretary shall establish objectives
11 regarding the activities to be carried out under the
12 award, which objectives are applicable until the next
13 fiscal year for which such award is made after a
14 competitive process of review. In making an award
15 after such a review, the Secretary shall establish ad-
16 ditional objectives for the applicant.

17 “(2) PRECONDITION FOR SUBSEQUENT
18 AWARDS.—In the case of an applicant seeking an
19 award under subsection (a) pursuant to a competi-
20 tive process of review, the Secretary may make the
21 award only if the applicant demonstrates to the sat-
22 isfaction of the Secretary that the applicant has met
23 the objectives that were applicable under paragraph
24 (1) to the preceding awards under such subsection.

25 “(f) FUNDING.—

1 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—
2 For the purpose of carrying out this section and sec-
3 tion 736, there are authorized to be appropriated
4 \$33,000,000 for fiscal year 1998, \$37,000,000 for
5 fiscal year 1999, and \$40,000,000 for fiscal year
6 2000.

7 “(2) ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amounts appro-
8 priated under paragraph (1) for a fiscal year, the
9 Secretary shall obligate amounts as follows:

10 “(A) For carrying out subsection (a)(6),
11 not less than 20 percent.

12 “(B) For providing scholarships under sec-
13 tion 736, an amount equal to the amount pro-
14 vided for such purpose under this section for
15 fiscal year 1997, plus an amount for offsetting
16 the effects of inflation occurring after October
17 1, 1997.”.

18 (b) TRANSITIONAL AND SAVINGS PROVISIONS.—

19 (1) IN GENERAL.—During the period specified
20 in paragraph (2)—

21 (A) the amendment made by subsection (a)
22 does not apply to any entity that received a
23 grant for fiscal year 1997 under section 740 of
24 the Public Health Service Act; and

1 (B) such a grant to the entity for fiscal
2 year 1998 or subsequent fiscal years shall be
3 made and expended in accordance with the pro-
4 visions of such section as in effect on the day
5 before the date of the enactment of this Act.

6 (2) RELEVANT PERIOD.—In the case of an en-
7 tity that received a grant for fiscal year 1997 under
8 section 740 of the Public Health Service Act, the pe-
9 riod referred to in paragraph (1) is the period that,
10 in first approving the grant, the Secretary specified
11 as the duration of the grant.

12 **SEC. 206. STUDENT LOANS REGARDING SCHOOLS OF NURS-**
13 **ING.**

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

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

18 (2) in paragraph (2)—

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

21 (B) by inserting before the semicolon at
22 the end the following: “, and (C) such addi-
23 tional periods under the terms of paragraph (8)
24 of this subsection”;

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

3 (4) by adding at the end the following para-
4 graph:

5 “(8) pursuant to uniform criteria established by
6 the Secretary, the repayment period established
7 under paragraph (2) for any student borrower who
8 during the repayment period failed to make consecu-
9 tive payments and who, during the last 12 months
10 of the repayment period, has made at least 12 con-
11 secutive payments may be extended for a period not
12 to exceed 10 years.”.

13 **SEC. 207. FEDERALLY-SUPPORTED STUDENT LOAN FUNDS.**

14 (a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS REGARD-**
15 **ING CERTAIN MEDICAL SCHOOLS.—**

16 (1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subpart II of part A of title
17 VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
18 292q et seq.) is amended—

19 (A) by transferring subsection (f) of sec-
20 tion 735 from the current placement of the sub-
21 section;

22 (B) by adding the subsection at the end of
23 section 723;

24 (C) by redesignating the subsection as sub-
25 section (e); and

1 (D) in subsection (e)(1) of section 723 (as
2 so redesignated), by striking “1996” and in-
3 serting “2000”.

4 (2) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 723
5 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 292s),
6 as amended by paragraph (1) of this subsection, is
7 amended in subsection (e)(2)(A)—

8 (A) by striking “section 723(b)(2)” and in-
9 serting “subsection (b)(2)”; and

10 (B) by striking “such section” and insert-
11 ing “such subsection”.

12 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS REGARD-
13 ING INDIVIDUALS FROM DISADVANTAGED BACK-
14 GROUNDS.—Section 724(f)(1) of the Public Health Serv-
15 ice Act (42 U.S.C. 292t(f)(1)) is amended to read as fol-
16 lows:

17 “(1) IN GENERAL.—With respect to making
18 Federal capital contributions to student loan funds
19 for purposes of subsection (a), other than the stu-
20 dent loan fund of any school of medicine or osteo-
21 pathic medicine, there is authorized to be appro-
22 priated \$8,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 1998
23 through 2000.”.

1 **SEC. 208. AREA HEALTH EDUCATION CENTERS.**

2 (a) REQUIREMENTS FOR CENTERS.—Section
3 746(d)(2)(D) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
4 293j(d)(2)(D)) is amended by inserting “and minority
5 health” after “disease prevention”.

6 (b) FUNDING.—Section 746(i)(2)(C) of the Public
7 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 293j(i)(2)(C)) is amended
8 in the second sentence by inserting before the period the
9 following: “(except that in the case of fiscal year 1998,
10 amounts appropriated in excess of the amount appro-
11 priated for fiscal year 1997 shall be obligated for carrying
12 out subsection (a)(1) in rural States without an area
13 health education center program)”.

14 **TITLE III—RESEARCH**

15 **SEC. 301. OFFICE OF RESEARCH ON MINORITY HEALTH.**

16 Section 404 of the Public Health Service Act (42
17 U.S.C. 283(b)) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
18 lowing subsections:

19 “(c) PLAN.—The Director of the Office, in consulta-
20 tion with the advisory committee established under sub-
21 section (d), shall develop and implement a plan for carry-
22 ing out the duties established in subsection (b). The Direc-
23 tor shall review the plan not less than annually, and revise
24 the plan as appropriate.

25 “(d) EQUITY REGARDING VARIOUS GROUPS.—The
26 Director of the Office shall ensure that activities under

1 subsection (b) equitably address all racial and ethnic mi-
2 nority groups.

3 “(e) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

4 “(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—In carrying out sub-
5 section (b), the Secretary shall establish an advisory
6 committee to be known as the Advisory Committee
7 on Research on Minority Health (in this subsection
8 referred to as the ‘Advisory Committee’).

9 “(2) COMPOSITION.—

10 “(A) VOTING AND NONVOTING MEM-
11 BERS.—The Advisory Committee shall be com-
12 posed of voting members appointed in accord-
13 ance with subparagraph (B) and the ex officio
14 nonvoting members described in subparagraph
15 (C).

16 “(B) VOTING MEMBERS.—The Advisory
17 Committee shall include 12 voting members
18 who are not officers or employees of the Fed-
19 eral Government. The Director of the Office
20 shall appoint such members to the Advisory
21 Committee from among physicians, practition-
22 ers, scientists, consumers and other health pro-
23 fessionals, whose clinical practices, research
24 specialization, or professional expertise includes
25 a significant focus on research on minority

1 health or on the barriers that minorities must
2 overcome to participate in clinical trials. The
3 racial and ethnic minority groups shall be
4 equally represented among such members.

5 “(C) EX OFFICIO NONVOTING MEMBERS.—
6 The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Minority
7 Health and the Directors of each of the na-
8 tional research entities shall serve as ex officio
9 nonvoting members of the Advisory Committee
10 (except that any of such Directors may des-
11 ignate an official of the institute involved to
12 serve as such member of the Committee in lieu
13 of the Director).

14 “(3) CHAIR.—The Director of the Office shall
15 serve as the chair of the Advisory Committee.

16 “(4) DUTIES.—The Advisory Committee
17 shall—

18 “(A) advise the Director of the Office on
19 appropriate research activities to be undertaken
20 by the national research institutes with respect
21 to—

22 “(i) research on minority health;

23 “(ii) research on racial and ethnic dif-
24 ferences in clinical drug trials, including
25 responses to pharmacological drugs;

1 “(iii) research on racial and ethnic
2 differences in disease etiology, course, and
3 treatment; and

4 “(iv) research on minority health con-
5 ditions which require a multidisciplinary
6 approach;

7 “(B) report to the Director of the Office
8 on such research;

9 “(C) provide recommendations to such Di-
10 rector regarding activities of the Office (includ-
11 ing recommendations on priorities in carrying
12 out research described in subparagraph (A));
13 and

14 “(D) assist in monitoring compliance with
15 section 492B regarding the inclusion of minori-
16 ties in clinical research.

17 “(5) BIENNIAL REPORT.—

18 “(A) PREPARATION.—The Advisory Com-
19 mittee shall prepare a biennial report describing
20 the activities of the Committee, including find-
21 ings made by the Committee regarding—

22 “(i) compliance with section 492B;

23 “(ii) the extent of expenditures made
24 for research on minority health by the

1 agencies of the National Institutes of
2 Health; and

3 “(iii) the level of funding needed for
4 such research.

5 “(B) SUBMISSION.—The report required in
6 subparagraph (A) shall be submitted to the Di-
7 rector of the National Institutes of Health for
8 inclusion in the report required in section 403.

9 “(f) REPRESENTATIVES OF MINORITIES AMONG RE-
10 SEARCHERS.—The Secretary, acting through the Assist-
11 ant Secretary for Personnel Administration and in collabo-
12 ration with the Director of the Office, shall determine the
13 extent to which minorities are represented among senior
14 physicians and scientists of the national research insti-
15 tutes and among physicians and scientists conducting re-
16 search with funds provided by such institutes, and as ap-
17 propriate, carry out activities to increase the extent of
18 such representation.

19 “(g) REQUIREMENT REGARDING GRANTS AND CON-
20 TRACTS.—Any award of a grant, cooperative agreement,
21 or contract that the Director of the Office is authorized
22 to make shall be made only on a competitive basis.

23 “(h) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this part:

24 “(1) The term ‘minority health conditions’, with
25 respect to individuals who are members of minority

1 groups, means all diseases, disorders, and conditions
2 (including with respect to mental health)—

3 “(A) unique to, more serious, or more
4 prevalent in such individuals;

5 “(B) for which the factors of medical risk
6 or types of medical intervention are different
7 for such individuals, or for which it is unknown
8 whether such factors or types are different for
9 such individuals; or

10 “(C) with respect to which there has been
11 insufficient research involving such individuals
12 as subjects or insufficient data on such individ-
13 uals.

14 “(2) The term ‘research on minority health’
15 means research on minority health conditions, in-
16 cluding research on preventing such conditions.

17 “(3) The term ‘racial and ethnic minority
18 group’ has the meaning given such term in section
19 1707(g).”.

20 **SEC. 302. ACTIVITIES OF AGENCY FOR HEALTH CARE POL-**
21 **ICY AND RESEARCH.**

22 Title IX of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
23 299 et seq.) is amended—

24 (1) in section 902, by amending subsection (b)
25 to read as follows:

1 “(b) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO CERTAIN
2 POPULATIONS.—In carrying out subsection (a), the Ad-
3 ministrator shall undertake and support research, dem-
4 onstration projects, and evaluations with respect to the
5 health status of, and the delivery of health care to—

6 “(1) the populations of medically underserved
7 urban or rural areas (including frontier areas); and

8 “(2) low-income groups, racial and ethnic mi-
9 nority groups, and the elderly.”; and

10 (2) in section 926(a), by adding at the end the
11 following sentence: “Of the amounts appropriated
12 under the preceding sentence for a fiscal year, the
13 Administrator shall reserve not less than 8 percent
14 for carrying out section 902(b)(2).”.

15 **SEC. 303. DATA COLLECTION BY NATIONAL CENTER FOR**
16 **HEALTH STATISTICS.**

17 Section 306(n) of the Public Health Service Act (42
18 U.S.C. 242k(n)), as redesignated by section 501(a)(5)(B)
19 of Public Law 103–183 (107 Stat. 2237), is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 “(n)(1) For health statistical and epidemiological ac-
22 tivities undertaken or supported under this section, there
23 are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be
24 necessary for each of the fiscal years 1998 through 2001.

1 “(2) Of the amounts appropriated under paragraph
2 (1) for a fiscal year, the Secretary shall obligate not less
3 than an aggregate \$5,000,000 for carrying out subsections
4 (h), (l), and (m) with respect to particular racial and eth-
5 nic population groups.”.

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