

108TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# S. 2913

To establish a demonstration project to train unemployed workers for employment as health care professionals, and for other purposes.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 7, 2004

Mr. FEINGOLD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To establish a demonstration project to train unemployed workers for employment as health care professionals, and for other purposes.

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

3       **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Community-Based  
5       Health Care Retraining Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION**  
7       **PROJECT.**

8       Section 171 of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998  
9       (29 U.S.C. 2916) is amended by adding at the end the  
10       following:

1       “(e) HEALTH PROFESSIONS TRAINING DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.—

2       “(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

3               “(A) COVERED COMMUNITY.—The term

4               ‘covered community’ means a community or re-

5               gion that—

6                       “(i) has experienced a significant per-

7                       centage decline in positions in the manu-

8                       facturing or service sectors; and

9                       “(ii)(I) is eligible for designation

10                      under section 332 of the Public Health

11                      Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254e) as a health

12                      professional shortage area;

13                      “(II) is eligible to be served by a

14                      health center under section 330 or a grant-

15                      ee under section 330(h) (relating to home-

16                      less individuals) of the Public Health Serv-

17                      ice Act (42 U.S.C. 254b, 254b(h));

18                      “(III) has a shortage of personal

19                      health services, as determined under cri-

20                      teria issued by the Secretary of Health and

21                      Human Services under section 1861(aa)(2)

22                      of the Social Security Act (relating to rural

23                      health clinics) (42 U.S.C. 1395x(aa)(2));

24                      or

25

1           “(IV) is designated by a Governor (in  
2           consultation with the medical community)  
3           as a shortage area or medically under-  
4           served community.

5           “(B) COVERED WORKER.—The term ‘cov-  
6           ered worker’ means an individual who—

7           “(i)(I) has been terminated or laid  
8           off, or who has received a notice of termi-  
9           nation or layoff, from employment in a  
10          manufacturing or service sector;

11          “(II)(aa) is eligible for or has ex-  
12          hausted entitlement to unemployment com-  
13          pensation; or

14          “(bb) has been employed for a dura-  
15          tion sufficient to demonstrate, to the ap-  
16          propriate entity at a one-stop center re-  
17          ferred to in section 134(c), attachment to  
18          the workforce, but is not eligible for unem-  
19          ployment compensation due to insufficient  
20          earnings or having performed services for  
21          an employer that were not covered under a  
22          State unemployment compensation law;  
23          and

24          “(III) is unlikely to return to a pre-  
25          vious industry or occupation; or

1           “(ii)(I) has been terminated or laid  
2 off, or has received a notice of termination  
3 or layoff, from employment in a manufac-  
4 turing or service sector as a result of any  
5 permanent closure of, or any substantial  
6 layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise; or

7           “(II) is employed in a manufacturing  
8 or service sector at a facility at which the  
9 employer has made a general announce-  
10 ment that such facility will close within  
11 180 days.

12           “(C) HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONAL.—The  
13 term ‘health care professional’—

14           “(i) means an individual who is in-  
15 volved with—

16           “(I) the delivery of health care  
17 services, or related services, pertaining  
18 to—

19           “(aa) the identification,  
20 evaluation, and prevention of dis-  
21 eases, disorders, or injuries; or

22           “(bb) home-based or com-  
23 munity-based long-term care;

24           “(II) the delivery of dietary and  
25 nutrition services; or

1                   “(III) rehabilitation and health  
2                   systems management; and

3                   “(ii) includes nurses, home health  
4                   aides, nursing assistants, physician assist-  
5                   ants, dental hygienists, diagnostic medical  
6                   sonographers, dietitians, medical tech-  
7                   nologists, occupational therapists, physical  
8                   therapists, radiographers, respiratory  
9                   therapists, emergency medical service tech-  
10                  nicians, and speech-language pathologists.

11                  “(2) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROJECT.—In ac-  
12                  cordance with subsection (b), the Secretary shall es-  
13                  tablish and carry out a health professions training  
14                  demonstration project.

15                  “(3) GRANTS.—In carrying out the project, the  
16                  Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of  
17                  Health and Human Services, shall make grants to  
18                  eligible entities to enable the entities to carry out  
19                  programs in covered communities to train covered  
20                  workers for employment as health care professionals.  
21                  The Secretary shall make each grant in an amount  
22                  of not less than \$100,000 and not more than  
23                  \$500,000.

24                  “(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—Notwithstanding  
25                  subsection (b)(2)(B), to be eligible to receive a grant

1 under this subsection to carry out a program in a  
2 covered community, an entity shall be a partnership  
3 that is—

4 “(A) under the direction of a local work-  
5 force investment board established under sec-  
6 tion 117 that is serving the covered community;  
7 and

8 “(B) composed of members serving the  
9 covered community, such as—

10 “(i) a community college;

11 “(ii) a vocational or technical school;

12 “(iii) a health clinic or hospital;

13 “(iv) a home-based or community-  
14 based long-term care facility or program;

15 or

16 “(v) a health care facility adminis-  
17 tered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

18 “(5) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a  
19 grant under this subsection, an entity shall submit  
20 an application to the Secretary at such time, in such  
21 manner, and containing such information as the Sec-  
22 retary may require, including, at a minimum—

23 “(A) a proposal to use the grant funds to  
24 establish or expand a training program in order

1 to train covered workers for employment as  
2 health care professionals or paraprofessionals;

3 “(B) information demonstrating the need  
4 for the training and support services to be pro-  
5 vided through the program;

6 “(C) information describing the manner in  
7 which the entity will expend the grant funds,  
8 and the activities to be carried out with the  
9 funds; and

10 “(D) information demonstrating that the  
11 entity meets the requirements of paragraph (4).

12 “(6) SELECTION.—In making grants under  
13 paragraph (3), the Secretary, after consultation with  
14 the Secretary of Health and Human Services, shall  
15 select—

16 “(A) eligible entities submitting applica-  
17 tions that meet such criteria as the Secretary of  
18 Labor determines to be appropriate; and

19 “(B) among such entities, the eligible enti-  
20 ties serving the covered communities with the  
21 greatest need for the grants and the greatest  
22 potential to benefit from the grants.

23 “(7) USE OF FUNDS.—

24 “(A) IN GENERAL.—An entity that re-  
25 ceives a grant under this subsection shall use

1 the funds made available through the grant for  
2 training and support services that meet the  
3 needs described in the application submitted  
4 under paragraph (5), which may include—

5 “(i) increasing capacity at an edu-  
6 cational institution or training center to  
7 train individuals for employment as health  
8 professionals, such as by—

9 “(I) expanding a facility, subject  
10 to subparagraph (B);

11 “(II) expanding course offerings;

12 “(III) hiring faculty;

13 “(IV) providing a student loan  
14 repayment program for the faculty;

15 “(V) establishing or expanding  
16 clinical education opportunities;

17 “(VI) purchasing equipment,  
18 such as computers, books, clinical  
19 supplies, or a patient simulator; or

20 “(VII) conducting recruitment;

21 or

22 “(ii) providing support services for  
23 covered workers participating in the train-  
24 ing, such as—

25 “(I) providing tuition assistance;

1                   “(II) establishing or expanding  
2 distance education programs;

3                   “(III) providing transportation  
4 assistance; or

5                   “(IV) providing child care.

6                   “(B) LIMITATION.—To be eligible to use  
7 the funds to expand a facility, the eligible entity  
8 shall demonstrate to the Secretary in an appli-  
9 cation submitted under paragraph (5) that the  
10 entity can increase the capacity described in  
11 subparagraph (A)(i) only by expanding the fa-  
12 cility.

13                   “(8) FUNDING.—Of the amounts appropriated  
14 to, and available at the discretion of, the Secretary  
15 or the Secretary of Health and Human Services for  
16 programmatic and administrative expenditures, a  
17 total of \$25,000,000 shall be used to establish and  
18 carry out the demonstration project described in  
19 paragraph (2) in accordance with this subsection.”.

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