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(Original Signature of Member)

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the distribution
of additional residency positions, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. SEWELL introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide
for the distribution of additional residency positions, 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 “Resident Physician
5 Shortage Reduction Act of 2025”.

1 **SEC. 2. DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL RESIDENCY POSI-**
2 **TIONS.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1886(h) of the Social Se-
4 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(h)) is amended—

5 (1) in paragraph (4)(F)(i), by striking “para-
6 graphs (7), (8), (9), and (10)” and inserting “para-
7 graphs (7), (8), (9), (10), and (11)”;

8 (2) in paragraph (4)(H)(i), by striking “para-
9 graphs (7), (8), (9), and (10)” and inserting “para-
10 graphs (7), (8), (9), (10), and (11)”;

11 (3) in paragraph (7)(E), by inserting “para-
12 graph (10),” after “paragraph (8),”; and

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

15 “(11) DISTRIBUTION OF ADDITIONAL RESI-
16 DENCY POSITIONS.—

17 “(A) ADDITIONAL RESIDENCY POSI-
18 TIONS.—

19 “(i) IN GENERAL.—For each of fiscal
20 years 2026 through 2032 (and succeeding
21 fiscal years if the Secretary determines
22 that there are additional residency posi-
23 tions available to distribute under clause
24 (iv)(II)), the Secretary shall, subject to
25 clause (ii) and subparagraph (D), increase
26 the otherwise applicable resident limit for

1 each qualifying hospital (as defined in sub-
2 paragraph (H)) that submits a timely ap-
3 plication under this subparagraph by such
4 number as the Secretary may approve for
5 portions of cost reporting periods occurring
6 on or after July 1 of the fiscal year of the
7 increase.

8 “(ii) NUMBER AVAILABLE FOR DIS-
9 TRIBUTION.—For each such fiscal year,
10 the Secretary shall determine the total
11 number of additional residency positions
12 available for distribution under clause (i)
13 in accordance with the following:

14 “(I) ALLOCATION TO HOSPITALS
15 ALREADY OPERATING OVER RESIDENT
16 LIMIT.—One-third of such number
17 shall be available for distribution only
18 to hospitals described in subparagraph
19 (B).

20 “(II) AGGREGATE LIMITATION.—
21 Except as provided in clause (iv)(I),
22 the aggregate number of increases in
23 the otherwise applicable resident limit
24 under this subparagraph shall be
25 equal to 2,000 in each such year.

1 “(iii) PROCESS FOR DISTRIBUTING
2 POSITIONS.—

3 “(I) ROUNDS OF APPLICA-
4 TIONS.—The Secretary shall initiate 7
5 separate rounds of applications for an
6 increase under clause (i), 1 round
7 with respect to each of fiscal years
8 2026 through 2032.

9 “(II) NUMBER AVAILABLE.—In
10 each of such rounds, the aggregate
11 number of positions available for dis-
12 tribution in the fiscal year under
13 clause (ii) shall be distributed, plus
14 any additional positions available
15 under clause (iv).

16 “(III) TIMING.—The Secretary
17 shall notify hospitals of the number of
18 positions distributed to the hospital
19 under this paragraph as a result of an
20 increase in the otherwise applicable
21 resident limit by January 1 of the fis-
22 cal year of the increase. Such increase
23 shall be effective for portions of cost
24 reporting periods beginning on or
25 after July 1 of that fiscal year.

1 “(iv) POSITIONS NOT DISTRIBUTED
2 DURING THE FISCAL YEAR.—

3 “(I) IN GENERAL.—If the num-
4 ber of resident full-time equivalent po-
5 sitions distributed under this para-
6 graph in a fiscal year is less than the
7 aggregate number of positions avail-
8 able for distribution in the fiscal year
9 (as described in clause (ii), including
10 after application of this subclause),
11 the difference between such number
12 distributed and such number available
13 for distribution shall be added to the
14 aggregate number of positions avail-
15 able for distribution in the following
16 fiscal year.

17 “(II) EXCEPTION IF POSITIONS
18 NOT DISTRIBUTED BY END OF FISCAL
19 YEAR 2032.—If the aggregate number
20 of positions distributed under this
21 paragraph during the 7-year period of
22 fiscal years 2026 through 2032 is less
23 than 14,000, the Secretary shall, in
24 accordance with the provisions of
25 clause (ii) and subparagraph (E) and

1 the considerations and priority de-
2 scribed in subparagraph (C), conduct
3 an application and distribution proc-
4 ess in each subsequent fiscal year
5 until such time as the aggregate
6 amount of positions distributed under
7 this paragraph is equal to 14,000.

8 “(B) ALLOCATION OF DISTRIBUTION FOR
9 POSITIONS TO HOSPITALS ALREADY OPERATING
10 OVER RESIDENT LIMIT.—

11 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses
12 (ii) and (iii), in the case of a hospital in
13 which the reference resident level of the
14 hospital (as specified in subparagraph
15 (H)(ii)) is greater than the otherwise appli-
16 cable resident limit, the increase in the
17 otherwise applicable resident limit under
18 subparagraph (A) for a fiscal year de-
19 scribed in such subparagraph shall be an
20 amount equal to the product of the total
21 number of additional residency positions
22 available for distribution under subpara-
23 graph (A)(ii)(I) for such fiscal year and
24 the quotient of—

1 “(I) the number of resident posi-
2 tions by which the reference resident
3 level of the hospital exceeds the other-
4 wise applicable resident limit for the
5 hospital; and

6 “(II) the number of resident po-
7 sitions by which the reference resident
8 level of all such hospitals with respect
9 to which an application is approved
10 under this paragraph exceeds the oth-
11 erwise applicable resident limit for
12 such hospitals.

13 “(ii) REQUIREMENTS.—A hospital de-
14 scribed in clause (i)—

15 “(I) is not eligible for an increase
16 in the otherwise applicable resident
17 limit under this subparagraph unless
18 the amount by which the reference
19 resident level of the hospital exceeds
20 the otherwise applicable resident limit
21 is not less than 10 and the hospital
22 trains at least 25 percent of the full-
23 time equivalent residents of the hos-
24 pital in primary care and general sur-

1 gery (as of the date of enactment of
2 this paragraph); and

3 “(II) shall continue to train at
4 least 25 percent of the full-time equiv-
5 alent residents of the hospital in pri-
6 mary care and general surgery for the
7 5-year period beginning on such date.

8 In the case where the Secretary determines
9 that a hospital described in clause (i) no
10 longer meets the requirement of subclause
11 (II), the Secretary may reduce the other-
12 wise applicable resident limit of the hos-
13 pital by the amount by which such limit
14 was increased under this subparagraph.

15 “(iii) CLARIFICATION REGARDING ELI-
16 GIBILITY FOR OTHER ADDITIONAL RESI-
17 DENCY POSITIONS.—Nothing in this sub-
18 paragraph shall be construed as preventing
19 a hospital described in clause (i) from ap-
20 plying for and receiving additional resi-
21 dency positions under this paragraph that
22 are not reserved for distribution under this
23 subparagraph.

24 “(C) DISTRIBUTION OF OTHER POSI-
25 TIONS.—For purposes of determining an in-

crease in the otherwise applicable resident limit under subparagraph (A) (other than such an increase described in subparagraph (B)), the following shall apply:

“(i) CONSIDERATIONS IN DISTRIBUTION.—In determining for which hospitals such an increase is provided under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall take into account the demonstrated likelihood of the hospital filling the positions made available under this paragraph within the first 5 cost reporting periods beginning after the date the increase would be effective, as determined by the Secretary.

“(ii) MINIMUM DISTRIBUTION FOR CERTAIN CATEGORIES OF HOSPITALS.—With respect to the aggregate number of such positions available for distribution under this paragraph, the Secretary shall distribute not less than 10 percent of such aggregate number to each of the following categories of hospitals:

“(I) Hospitals that—

“(aa) are located in a rural area (as defined in subsection

1 (d)(2)(D)), excluding hospitals
2 that are treated as being located
3 in a rural area pursuant to sub-
4 section (d)(8)(E);

5 “(bb) are located in an area
6 that has a rural-urban com-
7 muting code equal to or great
8 than 4.0;

9 “(cc) are sole community
10 hospitals (as defined in sub-
11 section (d)(5)(D)(iii));

12 “(dd) are located within 10
13 miles of a sole community hos-
14 pital; or

15 “(ee) for fiscal years after
16 fiscal year 2031, have an accred-
17 ited rural training track (as de-
18 scribed in paragraph (4)(H)(iv)).

19 “(II) Hospitals in which the ref-
20 erence resident level of the hospital
21 (as specified in subparagraph (H)(ii))
22 is greater than the otherwise applica-
23 ble resident limit.

24 “(III) Hospitals in States with—

1 “(aa) new medical schools
2 that received ‘Candidate School’
3 status from the Liaison Com-
4 mittee on Medical Education or
5 that received ‘Pre-Accreditation’
6 status from the American Osteo-
7 pathic Association Commission
8 on Osteopathic College Accredita-
9 tion on or after January 1, 2000,
10 and that have achieved or con-
11 tinue to progress toward ‘Full
12 Accreditation’ status (as such
13 term is defined by the Liaison
14 Committee on Medical Edu-
15 cation) or toward ‘Accreditation’
16 status (as such term is defined
17 by the American Osteopathic As-
18 sociation Commission on Osteo-
19 pathic College Accreditation); or
20 “(bb) additional locations
21 and branch campuses established
22 on or after January 1, 2000, by
23 medical schools with ‘Full Ac-
24 creditation’ status (as such term
25 is defined by the Liaison Com-

1 mittee on Medical Education) or
2 ‘Accreditation’ status (as such
3 term is defined by the American
4 Osteopathic Association Commis-
5 sion on Osteopathic College Ac-
6 creditation).

7 “(IV) Hospitals that serve areas
8 designated as health professional
9 shortage areas under section
10 332(a)(1)(A) of the Public Health
11 Service Act, as determined by the Sec-
12 retary.

13 “(iii) PRIORITIZATION IN DISTRIBUTION TO HPSA HOSPITALS.—In distrib-
14 uting positions to a hospital described in
15 clause (ii)(IV), the Secretary shall give pri-
16 ority to hospitals that are affiliated with—

17 “(I) a historically Black medical
18 school (as defined in subparagraph
19 (H)); or
20 (H)); or

21 “(II) any other school listed in
22 section 326(e)(1) of the Higher Edu-
23 cation Act of 1965 that establishes a
24 medical college.

1 “(D) PROHIBITION ON DISTRIBUTION TO
2 HOSPITALS WITHOUT AN INCREASE AGREE-
3 MENT.—No increase in the otherwise applicable
4 resident limit of a hospital may be made under
5 subparagraph (C) unless such hospital agrees to
6 increase the total number of full-time equivalent
7 residency positions under the approved medical
8 residency training program of such hospital by
9 the number of such positions made available by
10 such increase under the subparagraph.

11 “(E) LIMITATION.—

12 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as pro-
13 vided in clause (ii), a hospital may not re-
14 ceive more than 75 full-time equivalent ad-
15 ditional residency positions in the aggre-
16 gate under this paragraph, paragraph (9),
17 and paragraph (10) over the period of fis-
18 cal years 2026 through 2032.

19 “(ii) INCREASE IN NUMBER OF ADDI-
20 TIONAL POSITIONS A HOSPITAL MAY RE-
21 CEIVE.—The Secretary shall increase the
22 aggregate number of full-time equivalent
23 additional residency positions a hospital
24 may receive under this paragraph over
25 such period if the Secretary estimates that

1 the number of positions available for dis-
2 tribution under subparagraph (A) exceeds
3 the number of applications approved under
4 such subparagraph over such period.

5 “(F) APPLICATION OF PER RESIDENT
6 AMOUNTS FOR PRIMARY CARE AND NONPRI-
7 MARY CARE.—With respect to additional resi-
8 dency positions in a hospital attributable to the
9 increase provided under this paragraph, the ap-
10 proved FTE per resident amounts are deemed
11 to be equal to the hospital per resident amounts
12 for primary care and nonprimary care com-
13 puted under paragraph (2)(D) for that hospital.

14 “(G) PERMITTING FACILITIES TO APPLY
15 AGGREGATION RULES.—The Secretary shall
16 permit hospitals receiving additional residency
17 positions attributable to the increase provided
18 under this paragraph to, beginning in the fifth
19 year after the effective date of such increase,
20 apply such positions to the limitation amount
21 under paragraph (4)(F) that may be aggre-
22 gated pursuant to paragraph (4)(H) among
23 members of the same affiliated group.

24 “(H) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph:

1 “(i) OTHERWISE APPLICABLE RESI-
2 DENT LIMIT.—The term ‘otherwise appli-
3 cable resident limit’ means, with respect to
4 a hospital, the limit otherwise applicable
5 under subparagraphs (F)(i) and (H) of
6 paragraph (4) on the resident level for the
7 hospital determined without regard to this
8 paragraph but taking into account para-
9 graphs (7)(A), (7)(B), (8)(A), (8)(B), (9),
10 (10)(A). and (10)(B).

11 “(ii) REFERENCE RESIDENT LEVEL.—
12 Except as otherwise provided in subclause
13 (II), the term ‘reference resident level’
14 means, with respect to a hospital, the resi-
15 dent level for the most recent cost report-
16 ing period of the hospital ending on or be-
17 fore the date of enactment of this para-
18 graph, for which a cost report has been
19 settled (or, if not, submitted (subject to
20 audit)), as determined by the Secretary.

21 “(iii) RESIDENT LEVEL.—The term
22 ‘resident level’ has the meaning given such
23 term in paragraph (7)(C)(i).

24 “(iv) QUALIFYING HOSPITAL.—The
25 term ‘qualifying hospital’ means a hospital

1 described in subparagraph (B)(i) or any of
2 subclauses (I) through (IV) of subpara-
3 graph (C)(ii).

4 “(v) HISTORICALLY BLACK MEDICAL
5 SCHOOL.—The term ‘historically Black
6 medical school’ means Howard University
7 College of Medicine, Charles R. Drew Uni-
8 versity of Medicine and Science, Meharry
9 Medical College, Morehouse School of Med-
10 icine, Xavier University Graduate School
11 of Health Sciences and Medical School,
12 and Maryland College of Osteopathic Medi-
13 cine at Morgan State University.”.

14 (b) IME.—Section 1886(d)(5)(B) of the Social Secu-
15 rity Act (42 U.S.C. 1395ww(d)(5)(B)) is amended—

16 (1) in clause (v), in the third sentence, by strik-
17 ing “subsections (h)(7), (h)(8), (h)(9), and (h)(10)”
18 and inserting “subsections (h)(7), (h)(8), (h)(9),
19 (h)(10), and (h)(11)”; and

20 (2) by adding after clause (xiii) the following
21 new clause:

22 “(xiv) For discharges occurring on or
23 after July 1, 2027, insofar as an additional
24 payment amount under this subparagraph
25 is attributable to resident positions distrib-

1 uted to a hospital under subsection
2 (h)(11), the indirect teaching adjustment
3 factor shall be computed in the same man-
4 ner as provided under clause (ii) with re-
5 spect to such resident positions.”.

6 **SEC. 3. STUDY AND REPORT ON STRATEGIES FOR INCREAS-**
7 **ING DIVERSITY.**

8 (a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United
9 States (in this section referred to as the “Comptroller
10 General”) shall conduct a study on strategies for increas-
11 ing the diversity of the health professional workforce. Such
12 study shall include an analysis of strategies for increasing
13 the number of health professionals from rural, lower in-
14 come, and underrepresented minority communities, includ-
15 ing which strategies are most effective for achieving such
16 goal.

17 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date
18 of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall
19 submit to Congress a report on the study conducted under
20 subsection (a), together with recommendations for such
21 legislation and administrative action as the Comptroller
22 General determines appropriate.

1 **SEC. 4. RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT**
2 **PROGRAMS.**

3 Title III of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.
4 241 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 330A–
5 2 the following:

6 **“SEC. 330A–3. RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOP-**
7 **MENT PROGRAM AND RURAL RESIDENCY**
8 **PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT TECHNICAL**
9 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

10 “(a) DEFINITION OF RURAL RESIDENCY PRO-
11 GRAM.—In this section, the term ‘rural residency pro-
12 gram’ means a physician residency program, including a
13 rural track program, accredited by the Accreditation
14 Council for Graduate Medical Education (or a similar
15 body) that—

16 “(1) trains residents in rural areas (as defined
17 by the Secretary) for more than 50 percent of the
18 total time of their residency; and

19 “(2) primarily focuses on producing physicians
20 who will practice in rural areas, as defined by the
21 Secretary.

22 “(b) RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOP-
23 MENT PROGRAM.—

24 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In
25 this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’—

26 “(A) means—

1 “(i) a domestic public or private non-
2 profit or for-profit entity; or

3 “(ii) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organi-
4 zation; and

5 “(B) may include faith-based or commu-
6 nity-based organizations, rural hospitals, rural
7 community-based ambulatory patient care cen-
8 ters (including rural health clinics), health cen-
9 ters operated by an Indian Tribe, Tribal organi-
10 zation, or urban Indian organization, graduate
11 medical education consortiums (including insti-
12 tutions of higher education, such as schools of
13 allopathic medicine, schools of osteopathic medi-
14 cine, or historically Black colleges or univer-
15 sities), or other organizations as determined ap-
16 propriate by the Secretary.

17 “(2) GRANTS.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
19 award grants to eligible entities to create new
20 rural residency programs (including adding new
21 rural training sites to existing rural track pro-
22 grams).

23 “(B) FUNDING.—Grants awarded under
24 this subsection may be fully funded at the time
25 of the award.

1 “(C) TERM.—The term of a grant under
2 this subsection shall be 3 years and may be ex-
3 tended at the discretion of the Secretary.

4 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—

5 “(A) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to re-
6 ceive a grant under this subsection, an eligible
7 entity shall prepare and submit to the Secretary
8 an application at such time, in such manner,
9 and containing such information as the Sec-
10 retary may require, including a description of
11 the pathway of the rural residency program as
12 described in subparagraph (B).

13 “(B) PATHWAY.—A pathway of a rural
14 residency program supported under this sub-
15 section shall be for—

16 “(i) general primary care and high-
17 need specialty care, including family medi-
18 cine, internal medicine, preventive medi-
19 cine, psychiatry, or general surgery;

20 “(ii) maternal health and obstetrics,
21 which may be obstetrics and gynecology or
22 family medicine with enhanced obstetrical
23 training; or

24 “(iii) any other pathway as deter-
25 mined appropriate by the Secretary.

1 “(c) RURAL RESIDENCY PLANNING AND DEVELOP-
2 MENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.—

3 “(1) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—In
4 this subsection, the term ‘eligible entity’ means—

5 “(A) a domestic public or private nonprofit
6 or for-profit entity; or

7 “(B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
8 tion.

9 “(2) GRANTS.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may
11 award grants to eligible entities to provide tech-
12 nical assistance to awardees of and potential
13 applicants of the program described in sub-
14 section (b).

15 “(B) FUNDING.—Grants awarded under
16 this subsection may be fully funded at the time
17 of the award.

18 “(C) TERM.—The term of a grant under
19 this subsection shall be 4 years and may be ex-
20 tended at the discretion of the Secretary.

21 “(3) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible to receive a
22 grant under this subsection, an eligible entity shall
23 prepare and submit to the Secretary an application
24 at such time, in such manner, and containing such
25 information as the Secretary may require.

1 “(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

2 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be
3 appropriated to carry out this section \$12,700,000
4 for each of fiscal years 2026 through 2030.

5 “(2) AVAILABILITY.—Any amounts appro-
6 priated under paragraph (1) shall remain available
7 to the Secretary until expended.”.