

110TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1599

To ensure an adequate supply of public health professionals, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 20, 2007

Mr. JEFFERSON introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To ensure an adequate supply of public health 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 “Expanding, Rebuild-  
5 ing, and Improving Access to Qualified Health Care Pro-  
6 fessionals in Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Affected Areas  
7 Act”.

8 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

9 The Congress finds as follows:

1           (1) Studies state the New Orleans area is now  
2 home to one million people, just under the pre-  
3 Katrina population of 1.3 million. But the health  
4 care resources necessary to adequately serve that  
5 level of population have not returned: only half of  
6 the previous 4,000 hospital beds are available; there  
7 is no level I trauma center; there are 34 nursing  
8 homes, down from 63; and 19 clinics, down from 90.

9           (2) According to recent statements in the “New  
10 England Journal of Medicine”, the health care situa-  
11 tion in New Orleans area remains unacceptably  
12 primitive. The absence of chronic care facilities con-  
13 tributes to the lengthening of stay in acute care hos-  
14 pitals whose costs exceed Centers for Medicare &  
15 Medicaid Services reimbursement, and these addi-  
16 tional uncompensated expenses may soon force re-  
17 cently reopened hospital beds to close again. Without  
18 rapid, coordinated, and effective help from govern-  
19 ment agencies, it is feared that disproportionate  
20 human suffering and death will continue to plague  
21 greater New Orleans.

22           (3) According to the Bureau of Health Profes-  
23 sions, National Center for Health Workforce Anal-  
24 ysis, the Louisiana health care system before Hurri-  
25 cane Katrina and Rita was struggling with a short-

1 age of primary care areas in 55 parishes and short-  
2 ages of physician assistants, nurse practitioners,  
3 nurse midwives, dentists, psychologists, and social  
4 workers.

5 (4) Health profession students, starting a new  
6 academic year, were forced to evacuate the city.  
7 Many trainees from Tulane University were relo-  
8 cated to Houston and Galveston in Texas. Less than  
9 a month later, on 24 September, another hurricane,  
10 Rita, hit land near the Louisiana-Texas border.  
11 Many of the 5,000 medical students and doctors in  
12 training in Texas were evacuated again.

13 (5) Prior to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Lou-  
14 isiana had the highest cost of health care in the Na-  
15 tion, but was rated the least healthiest State with  
16 the second highest infant mortality rate, the highest  
17 rate of premature deaths, and the third highest un-  
18 insured rate.

19 (6) After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Lou-  
20 isiana lost vast amounts of medical services (preven-  
21 tive, primary care, acute, emergency, critical care,  
22 surgical, subspecialty, maternity, gynecologic, family  
23 planning, sexually transmitted disease treatment,  
24 psychiatric/mental health, rehabilitation, administra-  
25 tive, diagnostic imaging, and laboratory).

1           (7) After Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, Lou-  
2           isiana lost over 7,500 health care professionals, in-  
3           cluding doctors, nurses, allied health care profes-  
4           sionals, dentists, medial support providers, public  
5           health professionals, behavioral specialists, mental  
6           health workers, and physical therapists.

7           (8) New Orleans' only certified level I trauma  
8           unit is still closed as of October 2006, and the num-  
9           ber of staffed hospital beds in the City of New Orle-  
10          ans was about 60 percent less than before Hurricane  
11          Katrina. Prior to Katrina, 90 clinics were in oper-  
12          ation, including 70 clinics run by the Medical Center  
13          of Louisiana at New Orleans, with the remainder  
14          being federally qualified health centers, mental  
15          health or addictive disorder clinics, or other specialty  
16          clinics. Post-hurricane, 19 clinics were open and  
17          generally operating at less than 50 percent of pre-  
18          Katrina capacity.

19          (9) More than three-fourths of the safety net  
20          clinics in New Orleans remain closed, and many of  
21          those that were open had limited capacity, according  
22          to data gathered by officials.

1 **SEC. 3. HURRICANE KATRINA AND RITA PUBLIC HEALTH**  
2 **WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP AND LOAN RE-**  
3 **PAYMENT PROGRAM.**

4 Part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act  
5 (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
6 the following:

7 **“Subpart 3—Public Health Workforce Scholarship**  
8 **and Loan Repayment Program**

9 **“SEC. 775. HURRICANES KATRINA AND RITA PUBLIC**  
10 **HEALTH WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP PRO-**  
11 **GRAM.**

12 “(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The Secretary shall estab-  
13 lish the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Public Health Work-  
14 force Scholarship Program (referred to in this section as  
15 the ‘Program’) to ensure an adequate supply of public  
16 health professionals to eliminate critical public health pre-  
17 paredness workforce shortages in State and local public  
18 health agencies in areas directly affected by Hurricane  
19 Katrina or Rita.

20 “(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to participate in  
21 the Program, an individual shall—

22 “(1) be accepted for enrollment, or be enrolled,  
23 as a full-time student—

24 “(A) in an accredited (as determined by  
25 the Secretary) educational institution in a State

1 directly affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita;  
2 and

3 “(B) in a course of study or program, of-  
4 fered by such institution and approved by the  
5 Secretary, leading to a health professions de-  
6 gree (graduate, undergraduate, or associate) or  
7 certificate, which may include laboratory  
8 sciences, epidemiology, environmental health,  
9 health communications, health education and  
10 behavioral sciences, psychology, physical ther-  
11 apy, gerontology, sociology, health policy, social  
12 work, information sciences, or public adminis-  
13 tration;

14 “(2) be a citizen of the United States or an  
15 alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in  
16 the United States;

17 “(3) submit an application to the Secretary to  
18 participate in the Program; and

19 “(4) sign and submit to the Secretary, at the  
20 time of the submission of such application, a written  
21 contract (described in subsection (d)) to serve, upon  
22 the completion of the course of study or program in-  
23 volved, for the applicable period of obligated service  
24 in the full-time employment of a Federal, State or  
25 local public health agency, organization, or associa-

1 tion in an area directly affected by Hurricane  
2 Katrina or Rita.

3 “(c) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—

4 “(1) APPLICATION AND CONTRACT FORMS.—

5 The Secretary shall disseminate application forms  
6 and contract forms to individuals desiring to partici-  
7 pate in the Program. The Secretary shall include  
8 with such forms—

9 “(A) a fair summary of the rights and li-  
10 abilities of an individual whose application is  
11 approved (and whose contract is accepted) by  
12 the Secretary, including in the summary a clear  
13 explanation of the damages to which the United  
14 States is entitled to recover in the case of the  
15 individual’s breach of the contract; and

16 “(B) information relating to the service ob-  
17 ligation and such other information as may be  
18 necessary for the individual to understand the  
19 individual’s prospective participation in the Pro-  
20 gram.

21 “(2) INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS.—The Sec-  
22 retary shall distribute to health professions schools,  
23 Historically Black Colleges and Universities, His-  
24 panic-serving institutions, Tribal Colleges and Uni-  
25 versities, Asian-American- and Pacific Islander-serv-

1 ing institutions, secondary educational institutions,  
2 and other appropriate accredited academic institu-  
3 tions and relevant Federal, State, local, and tribal  
4 public health agencies, materials providing informa-  
5 tion on the Program and shall encourage such  
6 schools, institutions, and agencies to disseminate  
7 such materials to potentially eligible students.

8 “(3) UNDERSTANDABILITY, AND TIMING.—The  
9 application form, contract form, and all other infor-  
10 mation furnished by the Secretary under this section  
11 shall—

12 “(A) be written in a manner calculated to  
13 be understood by the average individual apply-  
14 ing to participate in the Program; and

15 “(B) be made available by the Secretary on  
16 a date sufficiently early to ensure that such in-  
17 dividuals have adequate time to carefully review  
18 and evaluate such forms and information.

19 “(4) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—Individuals  
20 who are eligible under subsection (b) shall be pro-  
21 vided special consideration if the individuals are  
22 from medically underserved communities, as defined  
23 in section 799B of the Public Health Service Act  
24 (42 U.S.C. 295p).

1       “(d) CONTRACT.—The written contract (referred to  
2 in this section) between the Secretary and an individual  
3 shall contain—

4           “(1) an agreement on the part of the Secretary  
5 that the Secretary will provide the individual with a  
6 scholarship for a period of years (not to exceed 5  
7 academic years) during which the individual shall  
8 pursue an approved course of study or program to  
9 prepare the individual to serve in the public health  
10 workforce;

11           “(2) an agreement on the part of the individual  
12 that the individual will—

13           “(A) maintain full-time enrollment in the  
14 approved course of study or program described  
15 in subsection (b)(1) until the individual com-  
16 pletes that course of study or program;

17           “(B) while enrolled in the course of study  
18 or program, maintain an acceptable level of aca-  
19 demic standing (as determined under regula-  
20 tions of the Secretary by the educational insti-  
21 tution offering such course of study or pro-  
22 gram); and

23           “(C) immediately upon graduation, serve  
24 in the full-time employment of a Federal, State,  
25 or local public health agency, organization, or

1 association in a position related to the course of  
2 study or program for which the contract was  
3 awarded for a period of time (referred to in this  
4 section as the ‘period of obligated service’)  
5 equal to the greater of—

6 “(i) 1 year for each academic year for  
7 which the individual was provided a schol-  
8 arship under the Program; or

9 “(ii) 3 years;

10 “(3) an agreement by both parties as to the na-  
11 ture and extent of the scholarship assistance, which  
12 may include—

13 “(A) payment of the tuition expenses of  
14 the individual;

15 “(B) payment of all other reasonable edu-  
16 cational expenses of the individual including  
17 fees, books, equipment, and laboratory ex-  
18 penses; and

19 “(C) payment of a stipend of not more  
20 than \$2,400 per month for each month of the  
21 academic year involved (indexed to account for  
22 increases in the Consumer Price Index); and

23 “(4) a provision that any financial obligation of  
24 the United States arising out of a contract entered  
25 into under this section and any obligation of the in-

1       dividual which is conditioned thereon, is contingent  
2       upon funds being appropriated for scholarships  
3       under this section;

4               “(5) a statement of the damages to which the  
5       United States is entitled for the individual’s breach  
6       of the contract; and

7               “(6) such other statements of the rights and li-  
8       abilities of the Secretary and of the individual, not  
9       inconsistent with the provisions of this section.

10       “(e) POSTPONING OBLIGATED SERVICE.—With re-  
11       spect to an individual receiving a degree or certificate from  
12       a school of medicine, public health, nursing, osteopathic  
13       medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, po-  
14       diatry, pharmacy, psychology, or social work under a  
15       scholarship under the Program, the date of the initiation  
16       of the period of obligated service may be postponed, upon  
17       the submission by the individual of a petition for such  
18       postponement and approval by the Secretary, to the date  
19       on which the individual completes an approved internship,  
20       residency, or other relevant public health preparedness ad-  
21       vanced training program.

22       “(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

23               “(1) CONTRACTS WITH INSTITUTIONS.—The  
24       Secretary may contract with an educational institu-  
25       tion in which a participant in the Program is en-

1 rolled, for the payment to the educational institution  
2 of the amounts of tuition and other reasonable edu-  
3 cational expenses described in subsection (d)(3).

4 “(2) EMPLOYMENT CEILINGS.—Notwith-  
5 standing any other provision of law, individuals who  
6 have entered into written contracts with the Sec-  
7 retary under this section, while undergoing academic  
8 training, shall not be counted against any employ-  
9 ment ceiling affecting the Department or any other  
10 Federal agency.

11 “(g) BREACH OF CONTRACT.—An individual who  
12 fails to comply with the contract entered into under sub-  
13 section (d) shall be subject to the same financial penalties  
14 as provided for under section 338E for breaches of schol-  
15 arship contracts under sections 338A.

16 **“SEC. 775-1. HURRICANE KATRINA AND RITA PUBLIC**  
17 **HEALTH WORKFORCE RECOVERY LOAN RE-**  
18 **PAYMENT PROGRAM.**

19 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
20 lish the Hurricanes Katrina and Rita Public Health Work-  
21 force Loan Repayment Program (referred to in this sec-  
22 tion as the ‘Program’) to ensure an adequate supply of  
23 public health professionals to eliminate critical public  
24 health preparedness workforce shortages in Federal,  
25 State, local, and public health agencies, organizations, and

1 associations in areas directly affected by Hurricane  
2 Katrina or Rita.

3 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in  
4 the Program, an individual shall—

5 “(1)(A) be accepted for enrollment, or be en-  
6 rolled, as a full-time or part-time student in an ac-  
7 credited academic educational institution in a State  
8 or territory in the final year of a course of study or  
9 program offered by that institution leading to a  
10 health professions degree or certificate, which may  
11 include a degree (graduate, undergraduate, or asso-  
12 ciate) or certificate relating to laboratory sciences,  
13 epidemiology, environmental health, health commu-  
14 nications, health education and behavioral sciences,  
15 information sciences, or public administration; or

16 “(B) have graduated, within 10 years, from an  
17 accredited educational institution in a State or terri-  
18 tory and received a health professions degree (grad-  
19 uate, undergraduate, or associate) or certificate,  
20 which may include a degree (graduate, under-  
21 graduate, or associate) or certificate related to lab-  
22 oratory sciences, epidemiology, environmental health,  
23 health communications, health education and behav-  
24 ioral sciences, psychology, physical therapy, geron-

1       tology, sociology, health policy, social work, informa-  
2       tion sciences, or public administration;

3               “(2)(A) in the case of an individual described in  
4       paragraph (1)(A), have accepted employment with a  
5       Federal, State, local, or tribal public health agency,  
6       as recognized by the Secretary, to commence upon  
7       graduation; or

8               “(B) in the case of an individual described in  
9       paragraph (1)(B), be employed by, or have accepted  
10      employment with, a Federal, State, or local public  
11      health agency, organization, or association, as recog-  
12      nized by the Secretary;

13              “(3) be a citizen of the United States or an  
14      alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in  
15      the United States;

16              “(4) submit an application to the Secretary to  
17      participate in the Program; and

18              “(5) sign and submit to the Secretary, at the  
19      time of the submission of such application, a written  
20      contract (described in subsection (d)) to serve for  
21      the applicable period of obligated service in the full-  
22      time employment of a Federal, State, local, or tribal  
23      public health agency.

24      “(c) DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION.—

1           “(1) APPLICATION AND CONTRACT FORMS.—  
2           The Secretary shall disseminate application forms  
3           and contract forms to individuals desiring to partici-  
4           pate in the Program. The Secretary shall include  
5           with such forms—

6                   “(A) a fair summary of the rights and li-  
7                   abilities of an individual whose application is  
8                   approved (and whose contract is accepted) by  
9                   the Secretary, including in the summary a clear  
10                  explanation of the damages to which the United  
11                  States is entitled to recover in the case of the  
12                  individual’s breach of the contract; and

13                   “(B) information relating to the service ob-  
14                   ligation and such other information as may be  
15                   necessary for the individual to understand the  
16                   individual’s prospective participation in the Pro-  
17                   gram.

18           “(2) INFORMATION FOR SCHOOLS.—The Sec-  
19           retary shall distribute to health professions schools  
20           and other appropriate accredited academic institu-  
21           tions, health professions schools, Historically Black  
22           Colleges and Universities, Hispanic serving Institu-  
23           tions, Tribal Colleges and Universities, Asian-Amer-  
24           ican and Pacific Islander-serving institutions, sec-  
25           ondary educational institutions, and relevant Fed-

1 eral, State, and local public health agencies, mate-  
2 rials providing information on the Program and  
3 shall encourage such schools, institutions, and agen-  
4 cies to disseminate such materials to potentially eli-  
5 gible students.

6 “(3) UNDERSTANDABILITY, AND TIMING.—The  
7 application form, contract form, and all other infor-  
8 mation furnished by the Secretary under this section  
9 shall—

10 “(A) be written in a manner calculated to  
11 be understood by the average individual apply-  
12 ing to participate in the Program; and

13 “(B) be made available by the Secretary on  
14 a date sufficiently early to ensure that such in-  
15 dividuals have adequate time to carefully review  
16 and evaluate such forms and information.

17 “(4) SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.—Individuals  
18 who are eligible under subsection (b) shall be pro-  
19 vided special consideration if the individuals are  
20 from medically underserved communities, as defined  
21 in section 799B of the Public Health Service Act  
22 (42 U.S.C. 295p).

23 “(d) CONTRACT.—The written contract (referred to  
24 in this section) between the Secretary and an individual  
25 shall contain—

1           “(1) an agreement on the part of the Secretary  
2           that the Secretary will repay on behalf of the indi-  
3           vidual loans incurred by the individual in the pursuit  
4           of the relevant public health preparedness workforce  
5           educational degree or certificate in accordance with  
6           the terms of the contract;

7           “(2) an agreement on the part of the individual  
8           that the individual will serve, immediately upon  
9           graduation in the case of an individual described in  
10          subsection (b)(1)(A), or in the case of an individual  
11          described in subsection (b)(1)(B) will continue to  
12          serve, in the full-time employment of a Federal,  
13          State, or local public health agency, organization, or  
14          association in a position related to the course of  
15          study or program for which the contract was award-  
16          ed for a period of time (referred to in this section  
17          as the ‘period of obligated service’) equal to the  
18          greater of—

19                 “(A) 4 years; or

20                 “(B) such longer period of time as deter-  
21                 mined appropriate by the Secretary and the in-  
22                 dividual;

23           “(3) an agreement, as appropriate, on the part  
24           of the individual to relocate for the entire period of  
25           obligated service to a political jurisdiction designated

1 by the Secretary to be a Hurricane Katrina or Rita  
2 priority service area in exchange for an additional  
3 loan repayment incentive amount that does not ex-  
4 ceed 30 percent of the individual's eligible loan re-  
5 payment award per academic year such that the  
6 total of the loan repayment and the incentive  
7 amount shall not exceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the eligible loan bal-  
8 ance per year;

9 “(4) in the case of an individual described in  
10 subsection (b)(1)(A) who is in the final year of study  
11 and who has accepted employment with a Federal,  
12 State, or local public health agency, organization, or  
13 association upon graduation, an agreement on the  
14 part of the individual to complete the education or  
15 training, maintain an acceptable level of academic  
16 standing (as determined by the education institution  
17 offering the course of study or training), and com-  
18 plete the period of obligated service;

19 “(5) a provision that any financial obligation of  
20 the United States arising out of a contract entered  
21 into under this section and any obligation of the in-  
22 dividual that is conditioned thereon, is contingent on  
23 funds being appropriated for loan repayments under  
24 this section;

1           “(6) a statement of the damages to which the  
2           United States is entitled under this section for the  
3           individual’s breach of the contract; and

4           “(7) such other statements of the rights and li-  
5           abilities of the Secretary and of the individual, not  
6           inconsistent with this section.

7           “(e) PAYMENTS.—

8           “(1) IN GENERAL.—A loan repayment provided  
9           for an individual under a written contract under the  
10          Program shall consist of payment, in accordance  
11          with paragraph (2), on behalf of the individual of  
12          the principal, interest, and related expenses on gov-  
13          ernment and commercial loans received by the indi-  
14          vidual regarding the undergraduate or graduate (or  
15          both) education of the individual, which loans were  
16          made for—

17                   “(A) tuition expenses; or

18                   “(B) any other reasonable educational ex-  
19                   penses, including fees, books, and laboratory ex-  
20                   penses, incurred by the individual.

21          “(2) PAYMENTS FOR YEARS SERVED.—

22                   “(A) IN GENERAL.—For each year of obli-  
23                   gated service that an individual contracts to  
24                   serve under subsection (d) the Secretary may  
25                   pay up to \$35,000 on behalf of the individual

1 for loans described in paragraph (1). With re-  
2 spect to participants under the Program whose  
3 total eligible loans are less than \$125,000, the  
4 Secretary shall pay an amount that does not ex-  
5 ceed  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the eligible loan balance for each  
6 year of obligated service of the individual.

7 “(B) REPAYMENT SCHEDULE.—Any ar-  
8 rangement made by the Secretary for the mak-  
9 ing of loan repayments in accordance with this  
10 subsection shall provide that any repayments  
11 for a year of obligated service shall be made no  
12 later than the end of the fiscal year in which  
13 the individual completes such year of service.

14 “(3) TAX LIABILITY.—For the purpose of pro-  
15 viding reimbursements for tax liability resulting  
16 from payments under paragraph (2) on behalf of an  
17 individual—

18 “(A) the Secretary shall, in addition to  
19 such payments, make payments to the indi-  
20 vidual in an amount not to exceed 39 percent  
21 of the total amount of loan repayments made  
22 for the taxable year involved; and

23 “(B) may make such additional payments  
24 as the Secretary determines to be appropriate  
25 with respect to such purpose.

1           “(4) PAYMENT SCHEDULE.—The Secretary  
2           may enter into an agreement with the holder of any  
3           loan for which payments are made under the Pro-  
4           gram to establish a schedule for the making of such  
5           payments.

6           “(f) POSTPONING OBLIGATED SERVICE.—With re-  
7           spect to an individual receiving a degree or certificate from  
8           a school of medicine, public health, nursing, osteopathic  
9           medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, po-  
10          diatry, pharmacy, psychology, or social work, the date of  
11          the initiation of the period of obligated service may be  
12          postponed, upon the submission by the individual of a peti-  
13          tion for such postponement and approval by the Secretary,  
14          to the date on which the individual completes an approved  
15          internship, residency, or other relevant public health pre-  
16          paredness advanced training program.

17          “(g) ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS.—

18                 “(1) HIRING PRIORITY.—Notwithstanding any  
19                 other provision of law, Federal, State, local, and  
20                 tribal public health agencies may give hiring priority  
21                 to any individual who has qualified for and is willing  
22                 to execute a contract to participate in the Program.

23                 “(2) EMPLOYMENT CEILINGS.—Notwith-  
24                 standing any other provision of law, individuals who  
25                 have entered into written contracts with the Sec-

1       retary under this section, who are serving as full-  
2       time employees of a State or local public health  
3       agency, or who are in the last year of public health  
4       workforce academic preparation, shall not be count-  
5       ed against any employment ceiling affecting the De-  
6       partment or any other Federal agency.

7       “(h) BREACH OF CONTRACT.—An individual who  
8       fails to comply with the contract entered into under sub-  
9       section (d) shall be subject to the same financial penalties  
10      as provided for under section 338E for breaches of loan  
11      repayment contracts under section 338B.

12      **“SEC. 775–2. GRANTS FOR STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS IN**  
13                              **HURRICANE KATRINA AND RITA AFFECTED**  
14                              **AREAS.**

15      “(a) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of operating  
16      Hurricane Katrina and Rita State and local public health  
17      workforce loan repayment programs, the Secretary shall  
18      award a grant to any public health agency, organization,  
19      or association that receives public health preparedness co-  
20      operative agreements, or other successor cooperative  
21      agreements, from the Department of Health and Human  
22      Services.

23      “(b) REQUIREMENTS.—A State or local loan repay-  
24      ment program operated with a grant under subsection (a)  
25      shall incorporate all provisions of the Hurricanes Katrina

1 and Rita Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Pro-  
2 gram under section 775–1, including the ability to des-  
3 ignate Hurricane Katrina and Rita priority service areas  
4 within the relevant political jurisdiction.

5 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The head of the State or  
6 local office that receives a grant under subsection (a) shall  
7 be responsible for contracting and operating the loan re-  
8 payment program under the grant.

9 “(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this sec-  
10 tion shall be construed to obligate or limit any State or  
11 local government entity from implementing independent or  
12 supplemental public health workforce development pro-  
13 grams within their borders.

14 **“SEC. 775–3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 “(a) SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM.—For the purpose of  
16 carrying out section 775, there is authorized to be appro-  
17 priated \$35,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums  
18 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2009 through  
19 2013.

20 “(b) LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAMS.—

21 “(1) IN GENERAL.—For the purpose of car-  
22 rying out sections 775–1 and 775–2, there is author-  
23 ized to be appropriated \$225,000,000 for fiscal year  
24 2008, and such sums as may be necessary for each  
25 of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

1           “(2) ALLOCATION.—Not less than 80 percent  
2           of the amount appropriated under paragraph (1) in  
3           each fiscal year shall be made available to carry out  
4           section 775–2.”.

5 **SEC. 4. CULTURAL COMPETENCE TRAINING FOR HEALTH**  
6                   **CARE AND EMERGENCY RELIEF PROFES-**  
7                   **SIONALS.**

8           (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Health and  
9           Human Services, acting through the Administrator of the  
10           Health Resources and Services Administration, the Dep-  
11           uty Assistant Secretary for Minority Health, and the Di-  
12           rector of the National Center on Minority Health and  
13           Health Disparities, shall award grants to eligible entities  
14           to test, implement, and evaluate models of cultural com-  
15           petence training, including continuing education, for  
16           health care and emergency relief providers.

17           (b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
18           under subsection (a), an entity shall—

19                   (1) be an academic medical center, a health  
20                   center or clinic, a hospital, a health plan, a health  
21                   system, or a health care professional guild (including  
22                   a mental health care professional guild);

23                   (2) partner with a minority serving institution,  
24                   minority professional association, or community-  
25                   based organization representing minority popu-

1 lations, in addition to a research institution to carry  
2 out activities under this grant; and

3 (3) prepare and submit to the Secretary an ap-  
4 plication at such time, in such manner, and con-  
5 taining such information as the Secretary may re-  
6 quire.

7 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is  
8 authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
9 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years  
10 2008 through 2013.

11 **SEC. 5. HEALTH CAREERS OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM.**

12 (a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to  
13 diversify the health care workforce by increasing the num-  
14 ber of individuals from disadvantaged backgrounds in the  
15 health and allied health professions by enhancing the aca-  
16 demic skills of students from disadvantaged backgrounds  
17 and supporting them in successfully entering, competing  
18 in, and graduating from health professions training pro-  
19 grams.

20 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section  
21 740(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
22 293d(c)) is amended by striking “there is authorized to  
23 be appropriated \$29,400,000” and all that follows through  
24 “2002” and inserting “there are authorized to be appro-  
25 priated \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums

1 as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2009 through  
2 2013”.

3 **SEC. 6. PROGRAM OF EXCELLENCE IN HEALTH PROFES-**  
4 **SIONS EDUCATION FOR UNDERREP-**  
5 **RESENTED MINORITIES.**

6 (a) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this section to  
7 diversify the health care workforce by supporting pro-  
8 grams of excellence in designated health professions  
9 schools that demonstrate a commitment to under rep-  
10 resented minority populations with a focus on minority  
11 health issues, cultural and linguistic competence, and  
12 eliminating health disparities.

13 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.—Section  
14 736(h)(1) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
15 293(h)(1)) is amended to read as follows:

16 “(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—  
17 For the purpose of making grants under subsection  
18 (a), there are authorized to be appropriated  
19 \$50,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as  
20 may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009  
21 through 2013.”.

1 **SEC. 7. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS; RECRUITMENT**  
2 **AND FELLOWSHIPS FOR INDIVIDUALS FROM**  
3 **DISADVANTAGED BACKGROUNDS.**

4 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 331(b) of the Public  
5 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254d(b)) is amended by  
6 adding at the end the following:

7 “(3) The Secretary shall ensure that the individuals  
8 with respect to whom activities under paragraphs (1) and  
9 (2) are carried out include individuals from disadvantaged  
10 backgrounds, including activities carried out to provide  
11 health professions students with information on the Schol-  
12 arship and Loan Repayment Programs.”.

13 (b) ASSIGNMENT OF CORPS PERSONNEL.—Section  
14 333(a) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
15 254f(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(4) In assigning Corps personnel under this section,  
17 the Secretary shall give preference to applicants who re-  
18 quest assignment to a Federally-qualified health center (as  
19 defined in section 1861(aa) of the Social Security Act) or  
20 to a provider organization that has a majority of patients  
21 who are minorities or individuals from low-income families  
22 (families with a family income that is less than 200 per-  
23 cent of the poverty line, as defined by the Office of Man-  
24 agement and Budget and revised annually in accordance  
25 with section 673(2) of the Community Services Block  
26 Grant Act).”.

1 **SEC. 8. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM OF CENTERS FOR DIS-**  
2 **EASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION.**

3 Section 317F(c) of the Public Health Service Act (42  
4 U.S.C. 247b-7(c)) is amended—

5 (1) by striking “and” after “1994,”; and

6 (2) by inserting before the period the following:

7 “\$750,000 for fiscal year 2008, and such sums as  
8 may be necessary for each of the fiscal years 2009  
9 through 2013”.

10 **SEC. 9. MID-CAREER HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLARSHIP**  
11 **PROGRAM.**

12 Part B of title VII of the Public Health Service Act  
13 is amended by adding at the end the following:

14 **“SEC. 742. MID-CAREER HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLAR-**  
15 **SHIP PROGRAM.**

16 “(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may make grants  
17 to eligible schools for awarding scholarships to eligible in-  
18 dividuals to attend the school involved, for the purpose of  
19 enabling the individuals to make a career change from a  
20 non-health profession to a health profession.

21 “(b) EXPENSES.—Amounts awarded as a scholarship  
22 under this section—

23 “(1) subject to paragraph (2), may be expended  
24 only for tuition expenses, other reasonable edu-  
25 cational expenses, and reasonable living expenses in-  
26 curred in the attendance of the school involved; and

1           “(2) may be expended for stipends to eligible  
2 individuals for the enrolled period at eligible schools,  
3 except that such a stipend may not be provided to  
4 an individual for more than 4 years, and such a sti-  
5 pend may not exceed \$35,000 per year (notwith-  
6 standing any other provision of law regarding the  
7 amount of stipends).

8           “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section: —

9           “(1) ELIGIBLE SCHOOL.—The term ‘eligible  
10 school’ means a school of medicine, osteopathic med-  
11 icine, dentistry, nursing (as defined in section 801),  
12 pharmacy, podiatric medicine, optometry, veterinary  
13 medicine, public health, chiropractic, or allied health,  
14 a school offering a graduate program in mental and  
15 behavioral health practice, or an entity providing  
16 programs for the training of physician assistants.

17           “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible  
18 individual’ means an individual who has obtained a  
19 secondary school diploma or its recognized equiva-  
20 lent.

21           “(d) PRIORITY.—In providing scholarships to eligible  
22 individuals, eligible schools shall give priority to individ-  
23 uals who are from disadvantaged backgrounds and seek  
24 to work in areas affected by Hurricane Katrina or Rita.

1       “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
2 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,  
3 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years  
4 2008 through 2013.”.

5 **SEC. 10. EMERGENCY MEDICAL AND RESCUE SERVICES**  
6 **FOR CHILDREN.**

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1910(a) of the Public  
8 Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 300w–9(a)) is amended—

9           (1) by striking “may make grants to States or  
10 accredited schools of medicine in States to support  
11 a program of demonstration projects for the expansion and improvement of emergency medical services  
12 for children who need treatment for trauma or critical care” and inserting “may make grants to, or  
13 enter into contracts with, States, local government  
14 entities, Indian tribes, accredited schools of medicine, and nonprofit children’s hospitals to improve  
15 emergency medical services for children who need  
16 treatment for trauma or critical care, including injury prevention activities and data collection”;

21           (2) by striking “3-year” and inserting “4-year”;

22       and

23           (3) by striking “4th” and inserting “5th”.

1 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Sub-  
2 section (d) of section 1910 of the Public Health Service  
3 Act (42 U.S.C. 300w–9) is amended—

4 (1) by striking “and” before such sums; and

5 (2) by inserting “\$65,000,000 for the period of  
6 fiscal years 2008 through 2011” before the period at  
7 the end.

8 **SEC. 11. BLOCK GRANTS TO STATES FOR SOCIAL SERVICES.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 2003  
10 and paragraphs (1) and (4) of section 2005(a) of the So-  
11 cial Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397b, 1397d(a)), the Sec-  
12 retary of Health and Human Services shall make addi-  
13 tional payments under title XX of the Social Security Act  
14 (42 U.S.C. 1397 et seq.) to States directly affected by  
15 Hurricane Katrina or Rita for health services (including  
16 mental health services); for health professional recruit-  
17 ment, training, and retention programs; and for repair,  
18 renovation, and construction of health facilities (including  
19 mental health facilities).

20 (b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

21 (1) IN GENERAL.—To carry out this section,  
22 there is authorized to be appropriated \$250,000,000  
23 for fiscal year 2008.

24 (2) ALLOCATION.—Of the amount appropriated  
25 pursuant to paragraph (1)—

1           (A) 25 percent shall be for additional pay-  
2           ments under this section to Mississippi; and

3           (B) 75 percent shall be for additional pay-  
4           ments under this section to Louisiana.

○