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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the Public Health
Workforce Loan Repayment Program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. CROW introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish the
Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program.

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 “Public Health Work-
5 force Loan Repayment Act of 2020”.

1 **SEC. 2. PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE LOAN REPAYMENT**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 Part D of title III of the Public Health Service Act
4 (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
5 the following new subpart:

6 **“Subpart XIII—Public Health Workforce**

7 **“SEC. 340J. LOAN REPAYMENT PROGRAM.**

8 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary of Health
9 and Human Services shall establish a program to be
10 known as the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment
11 Program (referred to in this section as the ‘Program’) to
12 assure an adequate supply of and encourage recruitment
13 of public health professionals to eliminate critical public
14 health workforce shortages in local, State, and Tribal pub-
15 lic health agencies.

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

18 “(1)(A) be accepted for enrollment, or be en-
19 rolled, as a student in an accredited academic edu-
20 cational institution in a State or territory in the
21 final year of a course of study or program leading
22 to a public health or health professions degree or
23 certificate and have accepted employment with a
24 local, State, or Tribal public health agency, or a re-
25 lated training fellowship, as recognized by the Sec-
26 retary, to commence upon graduation; or

1 “(B)(i) have graduated, during the preceding
2 10-year period, from an accredited educational insti-
3 tution in a State or territory and received a public
4 health or health professions degree or certificate;
5 and

6 “(ii) be employed by, or have accepted employ-
7 ment with, a local, State, or Tribal public health
8 agency or a related training fellowship, as recognized
9 by the Secretary;

10 “(2) be a United States citizen;

11 “(3)(A) submit an application to the Secretary
12 to participate in the Program; and

13 “(B) execute a written contract as required in
14 subsection (c); and

15 “(4) not have received, for the same service, a
16 reduction of loan obligations under section 428J,
17 428K, 428L, 455(m), or 460 of the Higher Edu-
18 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078–10, 1078–11,
19 1078–12, 1087e(m), and 1087j).

20 “(c) CONTRACT.—The written contract referred to in
21 subsection (b)(3)(B) between the Secretary and an indi-
22 vidual shall contain—

23 “(1) an agreement on the part of the Secretary
24 that the Secretary will repay, on behalf of the indi-
25 vidual, loans incurred by the individual in the pur-

1 suit of the relevant degree or certificate in accord-
2 ance with the terms of the contract;

3 “(2) an agreement on the part of the individual
4 that the individual will serve in the full-time employ-
5 ment of a local, State, or Tribal public health agency
6 or a related fellowship program in a position related
7 to the course of study or program for which the con-
8 tract was awarded for a period of time equal to the
9 greater of—

10 “(A) 3 years; or

11 “(B) such longer period of time as deter-
12 mined appropriate by the Secretary and the in-
13 dividual;

14 “(3) an agreement, as appropriate, on the part
15 of the individual to relocate to a priority service area
16 (as determined by the Secretary) in exchange for an
17 additional loan repayment incentive amount to be
18 determined by the Secretary;

19 “(4) 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 “(5) 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 “(6) such other statements of the rights and li-
5 abilities of the Secretary and of the individual as the
6 Secretary determines appropriate, not inconsistent
7 with this section.

8 “(d) PAYMENTS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A loan repayment provided
10 for an individual under a written contract referred
11 to in subsection (b)(3)(B) shall consist of payment,
12 in accordance with paragraph (2), on behalf of the
13 individual of the principal, interest, and related ex-
14 penses on government and commercial loans received
15 by the individual regarding the undergraduate or
16 graduate education of the individual (or both), which
17 loans were made for tuition expenses incurred by the
18 individual.

19 “(2) PAYMENTS FOR YEARS SERVED.—For
20 each year of service that an individual contracts to
21 serve pursuant to subsection (c)(2), the Secretary
22 may pay not more than \$35,000 on behalf of the in-
23 dividual for loans described in paragraph (1). With
24 respect to participants under the Program whose
25 total eligible loans are less than \$105,000, the Sec-

1 retary shall pay an amount that does not exceed $\frac{1}{3}$
2 of the eligible loan balance for each year of such
3 service of such individual.

4 “(3) TAX LIABILITY.—For the purpose of pro-
5 viding reimbursements for tax liability resulting
6 from payments under paragraph (2) on behalf of an
7 individual, the Secretary shall, in addition to such
8 payments, make payments to the individual in an
9 amount not to exceed 39 percent of the total amount
10 of loan repayments made for the taxable year in-
11 volved.

12 “(e) POSTPONING OBLIGATED SERVICE.—With re-
13 spect to an individual receiving a degree or certificate from
14 a health professions or other related school, the date of
15 the initiation of the period of obligated service may be
16 postponed as approved by the Secretary.

17 “(f) BREACH OF CONTRACT.—An individual who fails
18 to comply with the contract entered into under subsection
19 (c) shall be subject to the same financial penalties as pro-
20 vided for under section 338E of the Public Health Service
21 Act (42 U.S.C. 254o) for breaches of loan repayment con-
22 tracts under section 338B of such Act (42 U.S.C. section
23 2541–1).

24 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
25 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section—

1 “(1) \$100,000,000 for fiscal year 2020; and
2 “(2) \$75,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2021
3 through 2025.”.