

111TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1457

To amend the Public Health Service Act to deem certain geriatric health training to be obligated service for purposes of the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 12, 2009

Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. KLEIN of Florida) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce

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## A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to deem certain geriatric health training to be obligated service for purposes of the National Health Service Corps Loan Repayment Program, 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 “Geriatrics Loan For-  
5 giveness Act of 2009”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds the following:

1           (1) Between 2005 and 2030, it is estimated  
2 that the number of adults aged 65 and older will al-  
3 most double from 37,000,000 to more than  
4 70,000,000, increasing from 12 percent of the popu-  
5 lation of the United States to almost 20 percent of  
6 the population.

7           (2) The number of the “oldest old,” those who  
8 are 85 and over, is also expected to nearly double,  
9 from 5,000,000 to 9,000,000 between 2005 and  
10 2030.

11           (3) These “oldest old” adults have the highest  
12 per capita utilization of health care services, and  
13 their conditions are often complex with multiple co-  
14 morbidities.

15           (4) The Institute of Medicine’s 2008 report,  
16 *Retooling for an Aging America: Building the*  
17 *Health Care Workforce*, emphasized that, because of  
18 the increasing numbers of frail older adults, there is  
19 an increasing need for geriatric specialist care and  
20 for geriatric specialists to train the entire health  
21 care workforce in geriatric principles.

22           (5) Shortages in many health care professions  
23 are apparent already in the United States. Short-  
24 ages of geriatric specialists are even more severe,  
25 with a decline in the number of geriatricians and

1       geriatric psychiatrists, and inadequate numbers of  
2       geriatric social workers, nurses, psychologists, and  
3       other health care professionals with geriatric exper-  
4       tise.

5               (6) There are numerous barriers for health care  
6       professionals interested in entering geriatric special-  
7       ties, including the time required for additional train-  
8       ing and financial disincentives.

9       **SEC. 3. NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS LOAN REPAY-**  
10                                   **MENT PROGRAM.**

11       (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 338C of the Public  
12       Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254m) is amended by add-  
13       ing at the end the following:

14               “(e) OBLIGATED SERVICE.—

15                       “(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Loan  
16       Repayment Program under section 338B, each year  
17       during which an individual is enrolled and partici-  
18       pating in an accredited (as determined by the Sec-  
19       retary) educational program that provides geriatric  
20       health training shall be deemed to be a year of obli-  
21       gated service. Upon the completion of such training,  
22       an individual with respect to whom a year of train-  
23       ing is deemed to be a year of obligated service under  
24       this paragraph shall, after consultation with the Sec-  
25       retary, provide geriatric health services during the

1 remainder of such individual's period of obligated  
2 service.

3 “(2) LIMITATION.—The number of individuals  
4 for whom geriatric health training is deemed to be  
5 obligated service under this subsection shall not ex-  
6 ceed 500 in any year.”.

7 (b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by  
8 subsection (a) shall apply only to applications submitted  
9 to the Secretary of Health and Human Services under sec-  
10 tion 338B of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.  
11 2541–1) on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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