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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Public Health Service Act to extend funding for the National Health Service Corps program.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to extend funding for the National Health Service Corps 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 “National Health Serv-
5 ice Corps Strengthening Act of 2017”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 The Congress finds as follows:

8 (1) The National Health Service Corps (NHSC)
9 program provides scholarships and loan repayment

1 for primary care providers serving in designated
2 shortage areas of the country.

3 (2) The NHSC program has proven to be an ef-
4 fective and cost-efficient program that enables pro-
5 viders to both choose primary care practice and
6 serve in a shortage area of the country.

7 (3) Since its founding 45 years ago, more than
8 50,000 providers have participated in the NHSC
9 program.

10 (4) Today, more than 11 million people receive
11 access to primary medical, dental, and mental health
12 services from a NHSC provider.

13 (5) However, more than 66 million people live
14 in designated primary care shortage areas of the
15 country. Additionally, more than 51 million live in
16 dental health shortage areas, and more than 106
17 million live in mental and behavioral health shortage
18 areas.

19 (6) A modest expansion of the NHSC through
20 2022 would enable nearly 5 million additional people
21 to receive primary care through a NHSC-supported
22 provider.

23 (7) A 5-year extension of the funding for the
24 NHSC is critical to preserve access to care for mil-
25 lions of underserved people.

1 (8) For these reasons, it is vital to extend and
2 strengthen the NHSC program for fiscal year 2018
3 and beyond.

4 **SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF FUNDING FOR THE NATIONAL**
5 **HEALTH SERVICE CORPS PROGRAM.**

6 Paragraph (2) of section 10503(b) of the Patient
7 Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 254b–
8 2(b)) is amended—

9 (1) in subparagraph (D), by striking “and” at
10 the end; and

11 (2) in subparagraph (E), by striking the period
12 at the end and inserting “; and”; and

13 (3) by adding at the end the following:

14 “(F) \$320,000,000 for fiscal year 2018;

15 “(G) \$330,000,000 for fiscal year 2019;

16 “(H) \$340,000,000 for fiscal year 2020;

17 “(I) \$350,000,000 for fiscal year 2021;

18 and

19 “(J) \$360,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.”.