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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R.

To require geographical diversity in the provision of health profession opportunity grants under section 2008 of the Social Security Act, and to require the support services provided through the use of the grants to include a transportation assistance plan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

A BILL

To require geographical diversity in the provision of health profession opportunity grants under section 2008 of the Social Security Act, and to require the support services provided through the use of the grants to include a transportation assistance plan.

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 “Rural Health Training
5 Opportunities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY IN PROVISION OF**
2 **GRANTS; INCLUSION OF TRANSPORTATION**
3 **ASSISTANCE PLAN AMONG SUPPORT SERV-**
4 **ICES.**

5 Section 2008 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
6 1397g) is amended by redesignating subsections (c) and
7 (d) as subsections (d) and (e), respectively, and by insert-
8 ing after subsection (b) the following:

9 “(c) GEOGRAPHICAL DIVERSITY; TRANSPORTATION
10 ASSISTANCE PLAN.—

11 “(1) PREFERENCE FOR APPLICATIONS FOR
12 PROJECTS TO SERVE A RURAL AREA.—In consid-
13 ering applications for a grant under this section, the
14 Secretary shall give preference to applications which
15 describe a demonstration project that will serve a
16 rural area in which—

17 “(A) the community in which the individ-
18 uals to be enrolled in the project reside is lo-
19 cated;

20 “(B) the project will be conducted; or

21 “(C) an employer partnership that has
22 committed to hiring individuals who successfully
23 complete all activities under the project is lo-
24 cated.

25 “(2) SUPPORT REQUIRED TO INCLUDE TRANS-
26 PORTATION ASSISTANCE PLAN.—A project for which

1 a grant is made under this section shall include a
2 plan to provide project participants with transpor-
3 tation through means such as the following:

4 “(A) Referral to, and assistance with en-
5 rollment in, a subsidized transportation pro-
6 gram.

7 “(B) If a subsidized transportation pro-
8 gram is not reasonably available, direct pay-
9 ments to subsidize transportation costs.

10 For purposes of this paragraph, the term ‘transpor-
11 tation’ includes public transit, or gasoline for a per-
12 sonal vehicle if public transit is not reasonably ac-
13 cessible or available.

14 “(3) REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.—During
15 each Congress, the Secretary shall submit to the
16 Committee on Ways and Means of the House of
17 Representatives and the Committee on Finance of
18 the Senate a report—

19 “(A) on, with respect to the period since
20 the period covered in the most recent prior re-
21 port submitted under this paragraph—

22 “(i) the number of applications sub-
23 mitted under each subsection of this sec-
24 tion, with a separate statement of the

1 number of applications referred to in para-
2 graph (1); and

3 “(ii) the number of the applications
4 that were approved, with a separate state-
5 ment of the number of such applications
6 referred to in paragraph (1); and

7 “(B) that includes an assessment of the ef-
8 fectiveness of the demonstration projects con-
9 ducted under this section with respect to ad-
10 dressing health professions workforce shortages
11 or in-demand jobs in rural areas.”.

12 **SEC. 3. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

13 The amendments made by this Act shall take effect
14 on October 1, 2019.