

Imagine if we substituted early learning for health care?

H.R. 3590 Provisions for Health Care Workforce Development

Recently enacted health care reform (Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act H.R. 3590) makes significant provisions for expanding the health care workforce and for supporting and training current health care personnel. Title V of the Act, which contains all the relevant workforce provisions, is intended to improve healthcare by:

- Gathering and assessing comprehensive data about the needs for a specific workforce including demand, distribution, diversity, and skill needs;
- Increasing the supply of qualified healthcare workers;
- Enhancing workforce education and training; and
- Providing support to the existing workforce.

A Health Care Workforce Commission is created to serve as a resource to the Administration and Congress, communicate and coordinate with all other relevant federal agencies, develop and commission evaluations of education and training efforts, identify barriers to agency coordination, and foster and encourage innovations in workforce development. Initially the Commission will survey the field of supply and demand and report to Congress.

A program of state grants is established to enable State partnerships to complete preliminary planning and to implement strategies that will lead to comprehensive health care workforce development at the state and local levels. Grants are for not more than one year and not more than \$150,000 and the state must match 15%. Implementation grants will follow.

\$8 million is appropriated for planning grants for FY 2010, and \$150 million is appropriated for implementation grants. Data collection and longitudinal studies at the federal and state levels are provided for.

In addition to grants to States, discretionary grants are made available to higher education institutions and other non-profits to increase the supply of health care workers. These projects include federal support for scholarships, loan programs, loan forgiveness plans, and support for institutions providing direct training in specific areas. Strategies to support the existing work force include direct subsidies to institutions training and employing health care professionals, financial support for continuing education, and support for demonstration projects designed to increase opportunities for employment training and advancement for low income workers.