

H.R. 2781, Educating Medical Professionals and Optimizing Workforce Efficiency and Readiness for Health Act of 2019

As reported by the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on September 24, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2024	2020-2029
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	171	1,534	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	Mandate Effects	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2030?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No

H.R. 2781 would amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize grant programs that support education and training for health care workers. In 2019, \$280 million was appropriated for those programs, which are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration. In total, the legislation would authorize the appropriation of \$359 million for those programs for each year between 2020 and 2024. Authorization amounts include:

- \$258 million for the Training for Diversity programs,
- \$51 million for grants to programs that enhance the geriatric workforce, and
- \$50 million for loan repayment assistance for qualified individuals who are entering pediatric specialties.

H.R. 2781 also would create a new grant program to increase workforce diversity in the professions of physical therapy, occupational therapy, audiology, and speech language pathology. The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$5 million for that program.

In total and based on historical spending for similar activities, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$1.5 billion over the 2020-2024 period, assuming appropriation of authorized amounts. The remaining amounts would be spent after 2024.

The costs of the legislation, detailed in Table 1, fall within budget function 550 (health).



Table 1.
Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under H.R. 2781

	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars					2020-2024
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	
Authorization	364	364	364	364	364	1,818
Estimated Outlays	171	298	353	356	356	1,534

Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Alice Burns. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.