

**S. 2997, Title VII Health Care Workforce Reauthorization Act of 2019**

As reported by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions on December 17, 2019

By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars	2020	2020-2025	2020-2030
Direct Spending (Outlays)	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (-) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Appropriation (Outlays)	*	1,333	not estimated
Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply?	No	<b>Mandate Effects</b>	
Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2031?	No	Contains intergovernmental mandate?	No
		Contains private-sector mandate?	No
* = between zero and \$500,000.			

S. 2997 would amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize grant programs that support education and training for health care workers. In 2020, \$286 million was appropriated for those programs, which are administered by the Health Resources and Services Administration.

The bill would authorize the appropriation of \$268 million annually over the 2021-2025 period. Of that amount:

- \$88 million would be for Training for Diversity programs,
- \$139 million would be for primary care, oral health, area health education centers, workforce assessment, and public health and preventive medicine programs, and
- \$41 million would be for grants to programs that enhance the geriatric workforce.

Based on historical spending for those activities, CBO estimates that, assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, implementing those provisions would cost \$1.1 billion over the 2020-2025 period.

The bill also would authorize the appropriation of such sums as are necessary for loan repayment assistance to qualified individuals who are entering pediatric specialties. Based on authorization levels for related activities, CBO estimates that spending on the loan

repayment assistance would total \$201 million over the 2020-2025 period. Finally, S. 2997 would require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategic plan with respect to the health care workforce programs in conjunction with the Advisory Committee on Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry and the Advisory Council on Graduate Medical Education and to submit a report to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions that describes the strategic plan. Based on historical spending for similar activities, CBO estimates that the plan and report would cost less than \$500,000 over the 2020-2025 period.

In total and assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the legislation would cost \$1.3 billion over the 2020-2025 period. The remaining amounts would be spent after 2025.

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

<b>Table 1.</b> <b>Estimated Increases in Spending Subject to Appropriation Under S. 2997</b>							
	By Fiscal Year, Millions of Dollars						
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2020-2025
Estimated Authorization	*	316	316	316	316	316	1,579
Estimated Outlays	*	149	259	306	309	309	1,333

\* = between zero and \$500,000.

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