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(Original Signature of Member)

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To amend the Public Health Service Act to expand and improve the provision of pediatric dental services to medically underserved populations, and for other purposes.

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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

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A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to expand and improve the provision of pediatric dental services to medically underserved populations, and for other purposes.

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 ''Deamonte's Law'' .

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 The Congress finds as follows:

1   (1) The Centers for Disease Control and Pre-
2 vention reports that tooth decay in baby teeth has
3 increased 15 percent among United States toddlers
4 and preschoolers 2 to 5 years old, between 1988 to
5 1994 and 1994 to 2004.

6   (2) During the period of 1999 to 2004, 28 per-
7 cent of young children had experienced cavities.

8   (3) Tooth decay is the single most common
9 childhood chronic disease, and it disproportionately
10 affects poor and minority children.

11   (4) Eighty percent of dental decay occurs in
12 just 25 percent of children.

13   (5) Parents are 3 times more likely to report
14 that their children's dental needs are unmet, when
15 compared with general medical care needs.

16   (6) While 9,000,000 of the children in this Na-
17 tion do not have medical insurance, more than twice
18 that number—20,000,000—do not have dental in-
19 surance.

20   (7) The Department of Health and Human
21 Services estimates that more than 31,000,000 people
22 live in dental health provider shortage areas, and
23 4,650 additional dentists would be needed to meet
24 the need that exists in those areas.

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1   (8) Health centers serve as the health care

2   home for 16,000,000 individuals, including

3   5,200,000 children, aged 18 and under.

4   (9) A significant number of health centers pro-

5   vide dental services, but in many instances those

6   services are inadequate to meet the needs of low-in-

7   come children in the communities they serve.

8   **SEC. 3. ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE PILOT PROGRAM.**

9   Subpart I of part D of title III of the Public Health

10   Service Act (42 U.S.C. 254b et seq.) is amended by adding

11   at the end the following:

12   **"SEC. 330M. ACCESS TO DENTAL CARE PILOT PROGRAM.**

13   "(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award grants to

14   Federally qualified health centers to expand and improve

15   the provision of pediatric dental services to medically un-

16   derserved populations.

17   "(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may not make

18   a grant to a Federally qualified health center under this

19   section unless the center agrees to use the grant to expand

20   and improve the provision of pediatric dental services to

21   medically underserved populations by—

22   "(1) recruiting dentists, pediatric dentists, or

23   dentists with pediatric training to provide pediatric

24   dental services to populations served by the center;

1   ''(2) purchasing or renting equipment for the

2   provision of dental services;

3   ''(3) constructing and expanding physical space

4   for the provision of dental services; or

5   ''(4) allowing contractual relationships between

6   Federally qualified health centers and private dental

7   providers to increase access to dental care for adults

8   and children.

9   ''(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year

10   after the date of the enactment of this section, and annu-

11   ally thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation

12   of the activities funded through grants under this section

13   and submit a report to the Congress on the results of such

14   evaluation.

15   ''(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

16   ''(1) The term 'Federally qualified health cen-

17   ter' has the meaning given to such term in section

18   1861(aa)(4) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.

19   1395x(aa)(4)).

20   ''(2) The term 'pediatric dentist' means an indi-

21   vidual who has successfully completed residency

22   training from a pediatric dentistry program accred-

23   ited by the Commission on Dental Accreditation.

24   ''(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To

25   carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-

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1 priated $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through

2 2013.''.

SEC. 4. DENTISTRY WORKFORCE PILOT PROGRAM.

4 Title VII of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C.

5 292 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 747 the

6 following:

"SEC. 747A. DENTISTRY WORKFORCE PILOT PROGRAM.

8 "(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants to

9 schools of dentistry and hospitals with accredited training

10 programs in pediatric dentistry to increase the number of

11 individuals who pursue academic programs in pediatric

12 dentistry.

13 "(b) USE OF FUNDS.—The Secretary may not make

14 a grant to a school of dentistry or a hospital under this

15 section unless the school or hospital agrees to use the

16 grant to increase the number of individuals who pursue

17 academic programs in pediatric dentistry by—

18 "(1) establishing, maintaining, or improving

19 both pre- and post-doctoral academic programs in

20 pediatric dentistry;

21 "(2) recruiting and training dental students to

22 pursue training in pediatric dentistry;

23 "(3) strengthening training in pediatric den-

24 tistry within advanced education in general dentistry

1   and general practice dentistry residencies in den-

2   tistry programs; or

3   ''(4) recruiting and training practicing dentists

4   through continuing education programs in pediatric

5   dentistry.

6   ''(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 1 year

7   after the date of the enactment of this section, and annu-

8   ally thereafter, the Secretary shall conduct an evaluation

9   of the activities funded through grants under this section

10   and submit a report to the Congress on the results of such

11   evaluation.

12   ''(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To

13   carry out this section, there are authorized to be appro-

14   priated $5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 through

15   2013.''.