

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1976

To authorize educational assistance under the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship program for pursuit of advanced degrees in physical therapy and occupational therapy.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 8, 2011

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

A BILL

To authorize educational assistance under the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship program for pursuit of advanced degrees in physical therapy and occupational therapy.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR ADVANCED**
2 **DEGREES IN PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCU-**
3 **PATIONAL THERAPY UNDER THE ARMED**
4 **FORCES HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLAR-**
5 **SHIP PROGRAM.**

6 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with guidance
7 issued by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this
8 section, assistance under the Armed Forces Health Pro-
9 fessions Scholarship program under subchapter I of chap-
10 ter 105 of title 10, United States Code, shall be available
11 for pursuit of a master's degree and a doctoral degree in
12 the disciplines as follows:

13 (1) Physical therapy.

14 (2) Occupational therapy.

15 (b) **TERMINATION.**—The guidance under subsection
16 (a) shall provide that the availability of assistance as de-
17 scribed in that subsection for pursuit of a degree in a dis-
18 cipline covered by that subsection shall cease when the
19 Secretary certifies to Congress that there no longer exists
20 a current or projected shortfall in qualified personnel in
21 that discipline in either of the following:

22 (1) The military departments.

23 (2) Any major military medical treatment facil-
24 ity specializing in the rehabilitation of wounded
25 members of the Armed Forces.

26 (c) **SUNSET.**—

1 (1) IN GENERAL.—The authority to commence
2 the provision of assistance under this section shall
3 expire on the date that is two years after the date
4 of the enactment of this Act, if not terminated ear-
5 lier in accordance with subsection (b).

6 (2) CONTINUATION OF ONGOING ASSISTANCE.—
7 Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to ter-
8 minate the provision of assistance under this section
9 after the date specified in paragraph (1) to persons
10 provided assistance under this section before or as of
11 such date.

○