

H.R. 5602

Bolstering Infectious Outbreaks (BIO) Preparedness Workforce Act of 2021

Section-by-Section Summary

Section 1. Short Title.

Bolstering Infectious Outbreaks (BIO) Preparedness Workforce Act of 2021

Sec. 2. Establishment of a Bio-Preparedness and Infectious Diseases Workforce Loan Repayment Program

Directs the Secretary, acting through the Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administrator (HRSA) to establish the Bio-Preparedness and Infectious Diseases Workforce Loan Repayment Program.

To qualify for the loan repayment program, a health care professional must spend 50 percent of their time either:

1. engaged in **bio-preparedness and response** activities, including developing and updating response and surge capacity plans and protocols, purchasing and managing equipment (e.g., personal protective equipment (PPE)), training personnel related to bio-preparedness, executing readiness assessments, etc.; or
2. providing **infectious diseases care** in identified medically underserved communities, workforce shortage areas, or academic settings.

Health care professionals are defined to include physicians, clinical pharmacists, physician assistants, and advanced practice registered nurses. In addition, infection preventionists and clinical laboratory professionals are included in the definition of bio-preparedness health care professionals, and dentists are included in the definition of infectious diseases health care professionals. Further, eligible recipients are limited to those from the following degree or certificate programs: MD, DO, PhD, PharmD, RN, BSN, MSN, NP, CNP, PA-C, DrPH, MPH, MS epidemiology, MT, MLT, DDS, and DMD. Additional health professional programs may be included at the Secretary's discretion.

Obligated Service: A qualified individual will serve for 3 years, or such longer period of time as determined appropriate by the Secretary and the individual.

Payment: For each year of service, a qualified individual entering a contract with the Secretary may receive up to \$50,000.

Report: Requires the Secretary to report back to Congress within 3 years regarding the number and location of borrowers who qualified for the program, and the impact of the program nationally.

Authorization: \$50 million is authorized for each of fiscal years 2023 through 2027.