

*B. Sanders*  
S.L.C.

Sanders #1

AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_ Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To establish a public health workforce scholarship program.

**IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—117th Cong., 2d Sess.**

**S. 3799**

To prepare for, and respond to, existing viruses, emerging new threats, and pandemics.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by \_\_\_\_\_

Viz:

1 At the end of subtitle C of title II, add the following:  
2 **SEC. 229. PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP**  
3 **PROGRAM.**

4 Subpart 3 of part E of title VII of the Public Health  
5 Service Act (42 U.S.C. 295f et seq.) is amended by insert-  
6 ing after section 776 (42 U.S.C. 295f-1) the following:

7 **“SEC. 776A. PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE SCHOLARSHIP**  
8 **PROGRAM.**

9 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall estab-  
10 lish the Public Health Workforce Scholarship Program  
11 (referred to in this section as the ‘Scholarship Program’)  
12 to assure an adequate supply of, and encourage recruit-

1 ment and retention of, public health professionals to elimi-  
2 nate critical public health workforce shortages in State,  
3 local, and Tribal public health agencies.

4 “(b) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to participate in  
5 the Scholarship Program, an individual shall—

6 “(1) be accepted for enrollment, or be enrolled,  
7 as a student in an accredited institution of higher  
8 education or school of public health in a program  
9 leading to a certificate or degree, including a mas-  
10 ter’s or doctoral degree, in public health, epidemi-  
11 ology, laboratory sciences, data systems, data  
12 science, data analytics, informatics, statistics, or an-  
13 other subject matter related to public health;

14 “(2) be a United States citizen;

15 “(3) submit an application to the Secretary to  
16 participate in the Scholarship Program; and

17 “(4) sign and submit to the Secretary, at the  
18 time of submittal of such application, a written con-  
19 tract (described in subsection (c)) to accept payment  
20 of a scholarship and to serve for the applicable pe-  
21 riod of obligated service in a State, local, or Tribal  
22 public health agency.

23 “(c) CONTRACTS.—The written contract (referred to  
24 in this section as the ‘written contract’) between the Sec-  
25 retary and an individual shall contain—

1           “(1) an agreement on the part of the Secretary  
2           that the Secretary will provide the individual with a  
3           scholarship (described in subsection (d)) in each  
4           such school year or years for a period of years (not  
5           to exceed 4 school years) determined by the indi-  
6           vidual, during which period the individual is pur-  
7           suing a program described in subsection (b)(1);

8           “(2) an agreement on the part of the individual  
9           that the individual will—

10                   “(A) accept provision of such a scholarship  
11                   to the individual;

12                   “(B) maintain enrollment in a program de-  
13                   scribed in subsection (b)(1) until the individual  
14                   completes the program;

15                   “(C) while enrolled in such program, main-  
16                   tain an acceptable level of academic standing  
17                   (as determined under regulations of the Sec-  
18                   retary by the accredited institution of higher  
19                   education or school of public health offering  
20                   such program); and

21                   “(D) serve in the full-time employment of  
22                   a State, local, or Tribal public health agency or  
23                   a related fellowship program in a position re-  
24                   lated to the program for which the contract was  
25                   awarded for a period of time (referred to in this

1 section as the ‘period of obligated service’)  
2 equal to the greater of—

3 “(i) 2 years; or

4 “(ii) 1 year for each school year for  
5 which an individual receives a scholarship  
6 under this section;

7 “(3) a provision that any financial obligation of  
8 the United States arising out of a contract entered  
9 into under this section and any obligation of the in-  
10 dividual that is conditioned thereon, is contingent on  
11 funds being appropriated for scholarships under this  
12 section;

13 “(4) a statement of the damages to which the  
14 United States is entitled, under this section for the  
15 individual’s breach of the contract; and

16 “(5) such other statements of the rights and li-  
17 abilities of the Secretary and of the individual, not  
18 inconsistent with this section.

19 “(d) SCHOLARSHIPS.—

20 “(1) IN GENERAL.—A scholarship provided to a  
21 student for a school year under a written contract  
22 under the Scholarship Program shall consist of—

23 “(A) payment to, or (in accordance with  
24 paragraph (2)) on behalf of, the student of the  
25 amount as provided under 338A(g)(1)(A) of—

1                   “(i) the tuition of the student in such  
2                   school year; and

3                   “(ii) all other reasonable educational  
4                   expenses, including fees, books, and labora-  
5                   tory expenses, incurred by the student in  
6                   such school year; and

7                   “(B) payment to the student of a stipend  
8                   of the amount equal to the amount under para-  
9                   graph (1)(B) of section 338A(g) (as adjusted in  
10                  accordance with paragraph (3) of such section)  
11                  for each of the 12 consecutive months begin-  
12                  ning with the first month of such school year.

13                  “(2) CONTRACTS WITH EDUCATIONAL INSTITU-  
14                  TIONS.—The Secretary may contract with an accred-  
15                  ited institution of higher education or school of pub-  
16                  lic health, in which a participant in the Scholarship  
17                  Program is enrolled, for the payment to the institu-  
18                  tion or school of the amounts of tuition and other  
19                  reasonable educational expenses described in para-  
20                  graph (1). Payment to such an institution or school  
21                  may be made without regard to subsections (a) and  
22                  (b) of section 3324 of title 31, United States Code.

23                  “(e) PRIORITY.—In making awards under this sec-  
24                  tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible individuals  
25                  under subsection (b) who—



1           “(1) have previously received a scholarship  
2 under this section;

3           “(2) are from disadvantaged backgrounds; or

4           “(3)(A) are accepted for enrollment, or en-  
5 rolled, as a student in an accredited institution of  
6 higher education or school of public health that is in  
7 a rural area; or

8           “(B) agree in the written contract to seek em-  
9 ployment in a State, local, or Tribal public health  
10 agency, or a related fellowship program, that is lo-  
11 cated in a rural area.

12          “(f) TAX TREATMENT.—The amount of any award  
13 received under this section shall not be includible in gross  
14 income of the recipient for purposes of the Internal Rev-  
15 enue Code of 1986.

16          “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There  
17 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section  
18 such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years  
19 2022 through 2025.”.