



Maternity Care Health Professional Shortage Areas H.R. 1209/S. 628 - One Pager

The National Health Service Corps provides loan repayment for those health care professionals who elect to serve in Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs) around the country. This program has proven incredibly effective at placing providers, often those who are young, energetic and willing to work hard, in areas where the need is greatest. Currently, HPSAs are separated into three categories: primary care, dental health, and mental health. Health Professional Shortage Area designations are updated yearly by the Department of Health and Human Services. Each HPSA (primary care, dental, mental health) is defined by its own standards, but typically include rural and low-income areas. The designations are based on patient to provider ratios. Health professionals who focus on providing maternity care are distributed to community settings based on the primary care shortage area designations. This designation fails to take into consideration specific maternity care needs, potentially leading to inaccuracies in provider distribution. This legislation would create a HPSA based on maternity care to better distribute health care professionals who provide these important specialized services. It is a simple, straight forward way to ensure that our nation's investment in the National Health Service Corps is using the best data to effectively distribute maternity care professionals.