

**Bill: S.10 VA Clinician Appreciation, Recruitment, Education, Expansion,
And Retention Support (CAREERS) Act of 2023**

Introduced: 1/23/2023

Summary:

This bill aims to improve the workforce in the Department of Veteran Affairs by providing funding for licensure exam fees for those in VA-sponsored health professional scholarship programs, expanding eligibility for healthcare employees to be reimbursed for ongoing education costs (including the American Podiatric Medical Licensing Exam), and modifying the pay limitations for podiatrists, physicians, optometrists, and dentists.

Stance:

The American Podiatric Medical Student Association (APMSA) supports bill S.10, as it would benefit students in scholarship programs through the Department of Veterans Affairs by funding the costs associated with board licensing exams. The bill would also improve the professional outlook by providing parity with allopathic and osteopathic colleagues in respect to physician compensation.

Track progress here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/10?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22s.10%22%5D%7D&s=6&r=1>

**Bill: H.R. 8790: To Amend the Public Health Service Act to
Help Build a Stronger Healthcare Workforce**

Introduced: 9/9/2022

Summary:

This bill seeks to provide scholarships for healthcare professionals including physicians, dentists, behavioral and mental health professionals, certified nurse midwives, certified nurse practitioners, physician assistants, pharmacists, and other health professionals as determined by the Secretary. Students qualifying would need to complete an application to participate in the program and to sign and submit a contract. In order to qualify students must “maintain a minimum level of academic standing, complete their degree program and a residency, become licensed and then serve as a provider 1 year in (i) a health professional shortage area (as defined under section 332); (ii) a medically underserved community (as defined under section 799B); or (iii) any other shortage area defined by the State and approved by the Secretary.” All states that agree to participate in the program will cover the cost of tuition, any other reasonable educational expenses,

including fees, books, and laboratory expenses, related to the program, a cost of living stipend determined by the Secretary.

H.R. 8790 also creates incentives to medical students to pursue primary care including providing stipends or other forms of financial resources to students who work with designated mentors in the field of primary care in underserved urban and rural communities.

This bill will also award grants to medical schools that tailor their curriculum to the primary competencies listed in the bill. All schools receiving a grant must then submit a report after the end of the grant period.

Lastly, this bill calls on the Institute of Medicine to conduct a study and create a report evaluating documentation requirements for cognitive services.

Stance

The American Podiatric Medical Student Association (APMSA) protects and advances the rights, interests and welfare of all podiatric medical students across the country. This bill would benefit our podiatric medical students by reducing their student loan debt if they participate in this program. It is important that this bill creates explicit language including Podiatric Medical Students so that as future physicians they too can participate in this program and serve their respective communities as foot and ankle specialists. Additionally, APMSA supports all efforts to help connect physicians with communities that are medically underserved. Therefore APMSA supports H.R. 8790 *To Amend the Public Health Service Act to Help Build a Stronger Healthcare Workforce*, but humbly requests that Doctors of Podiatric Medicine are included in the final draft of this bill.

Track progress here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/house-bill/8790?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22h.r.8790%22%5D%7D&s=5&r=1>

Bill: S.4897: Student Loan Reform Act

Introduced: 9/20/2022

Summary:

This Act may be cited as the “Student Loan Reform Act of 2022”. This bill aims to include graduate or professional school students that are not considered “covered health care students” to receive a Federal Direct PLUS Loan beginning on or after July 1, 2023. They

were recently excluded from this benefit. Recent amendments to this proposed act do include “Doctor of Podiatric Medicine” as covered healthcare students.

Stance:

We support this bill.

Track Progress here: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/117th-congress/senate-bill/4897/text?s=2&r=1&q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22s.4897%22%5D%7D>