



HB15-1238 -- Tax Credit Preceptors Health Professional Shortage Areas *Representative Buck & Senator Cooke*

The Problem

The current workforce pipeline of medical, nursing, dental, physical therapist, physician assistant and pharmacist students is hinged on the availability of preceptors to give “on the ground” training. Both national and local licensing boards require these types of preceptorships before a student can graduate. Studies have shown that when a student receives training in rural and underserved areas, they are more likely to practice there. Training the next generation of students to treat the most neglected in our society is an important step in tackling our health professional shortage problem.

There is a severe shortage of health preceptors in Colorado, specifically rural and underserved areas. Numerous organization, including the Colorado Area Higher Education Centers who manage preceptorship programs, say that our shortage of rural and underserved preceptorships is hurting the state’s pipeline of qualified health care workers. It is vital to the well-being, quality of life, and economic development of the entire state that excellent health care be available in all regions of the state. A consistent problem is a lack of professional instruction, training, and supervision in health professional shortage areas that allows students studying in these areas to obtain the requisite professional mentoring and supervision to allow them to practice in such areas upon obtaining a professional degree and thereby provide the necessary scope of health care assistance required by the residents of shortage areas.

How Does HB 1238 Help?

The bill aims to create an individual income tax credit for medical, nursing, dental, physical therapist, physician assistant, and pharmacist preceptors in health professional shortage areas. This bill would allow preceptors in health professional shortage areas in Colorado to receive a tax credit of \$1,000 per student preceptor. If the preceptor sees more than 10% Medicaid, the tax credit would be raised to \$1,500. This tax credit aims to incentivize the number of preceptors currently in Colorado, specifically in rural and underserved areas, where the need is the greatest.

By increasing the number of preceptors in the state, Colorado’s public and private colleges and universities will able to utilize the full cadre of community-based health care workers, while also help provide the missing link between medical students graduating and preceptors necessary to help them continue their education. In other states who have successfully passed this legislation, there has been a correlation between this incentive and the amount of preceptors available. Unfortunately the problem as a whole is a much larger issue, but this legislations aims to make a dent in the larger problem.

Please support HB15-1238!

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