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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To reauthorize the rural emergency medical services training and equipment assistance program under section 330J of the Public Health Service Act.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. DUFFY introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To reauthorize the rural emergency medical services training and equipment assistance program under section 330J of the Public Health Service Act.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Hometown Heroes Re-
5 lief Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF RURAL EMERGENCY MED-**
2 **ICAL SERVICES TRAINING AND EQUIPMENT**
3 **ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.**

4 Section 330J of the Public Health Service Act (42
5 U.S.C. 254e-15) is amended—

6 (1) in subsection (a), by striking “in rural
7 areas” and inserting “in rural areas or to residents
8 of rural areas”; and

9 (2) by striking subsections (b) through (g) and
10 inserting the following:

11 “(b) **ELIGIBILITY.**—To be eligible to receive grant
12 under this section, an entity shall be—

13 “(1) an emergency medical services agency op-
14 erated by a local or tribal government (including
15 fire-based and non-fire based); or

16 “(2) an emergency medical services agency that
17 is described in section 501(c) of the Internal Rev-
18 enue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under sec-
19 tion 501(a) of such Code.

20 “(c) **USE OF FUNDS.**—An entity shall use amounts
21 received through a grant under subsection (a) to—

22 “(1) recruit emergency medical services per-
23 sonnel;

24 “(2) recruit volunteer emergency medical serv-
25 ices personnel;

1 “(3) train emergency medical services personnel
2 as appropriate to maintain licenses and certifications
3 relevant to service in an emergency medical services
4 agency described in subsection (b);

5 “(4) conduct courses that qualify graduates to
6 serve in an emergency medical services agency de-
7 scribed in subsection (b) in accordance with State
8 and local requirements;

9 “(5) fund specific training to meet Federal or
10 State licensing or certification requirements;

11 “(6) develop new ways to educate emergency
12 health care providers through the use of technology-
13 enhanced educational methods;

14 “(7) acquire emergency medical services equip-
15 ment; and

16 “(8) acquire personal protective equipment for
17 emergency medical services personnel as required by
18 the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

19 “(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

20 “(1) The term ‘emergency medical services’—

21 “(A) means resources used by a public or
22 private nonprofit licensed entity to deliver med-
23 ical care outside of a medical facility under
24 emergency conditions that occur as a result of
25 the condition of the patient; and

1 “(B) includes services delivered (either on
2 a compensated or volunteer basis) by an emer-
3 gency medical services provider or other pro-
4 vider that is licensed or certified by the State
5 involved as an emergency medical technician, a
6 paramedic, or an equivalent professional (as de-
7 termined by the State).

8 “(2) The term ‘rural area’ means—

9 “(A) a nonmetropolitan statistical area;

10 “(B) an area designated as a rural area by
11 any law or regulation of a State; or

12 “(C) a rural census tract of a metropolitan
13 statistical area (as determined under the most
14 recent Goldsmith Modification, originally pub-
15 lished in a notice of availability of funds in the
16 Federal Register on February 27, 1992, 57
17 Fed. Reg. 6725).

18 “(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

19 “(1) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be
20 appropriated to carry out this section \$10,000,000
21 for each fiscal years 2018 through 2022.

22 “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—The Secretary
23 may use not more than 10 percent of the amount
24 appropriated pursuant to paragraph (1) for a fiscal

1 year for the administrative expenses of carrying out
2 this section.”.