SENATE BILL SB-14

Introduced by Senator Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-19)

An act relating to Medical Academic Expansion..

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB-14, Rosilicie Ochoa Bogh (R-19). Medical Academic Expansion..

Under voter-approved Proposition 35 (CalMedForce+) and Proposition 56 (CalMedForce), funding supports the Grow Grant program, which allows distributions for educational incentives to increase California's healthcare workforce. Objective execution is yet to be finalized. Existing law allows institutions outside the UCs and CSUs to receive funding to support emergency and primary care if deemed eligible.

This bill will prioritize higher education with a sanction of adequate funding, scholarships, and subsidies

This bill will expand healthcare access and increase the number of medical professionals through a standardized, state-sponsored medical academy for entry-level positions in UC Medical schools and CSU Nursing program extensions.

This bill will meet the needs of rural areas in high need of medical personnel and career preparation.

Vote: 2/3rds. Appropriations/fiscal: no. Local program: no.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1. UC Medical School Expansion - Tier One
(a) Expanding UC medical campuses and facilities through the Northern Central Valley, the Inland Empire, and rural areas. Such establishment would create a network of physicians in hospital and clinical settings while allowing medical school students to complete residency at those locations.
(b) A new extension to UC San Francisco's medical school to be located in Bakersfield, similar to the UCSF Fresno program. Paired with critically low healthcare access in the southern Central Valley, this would create a larger pool of physicians who can properly serve Kern, Kings, and Tulare Counties. The UCSF Fresno program should also be expanded, in conjunction with the proposed UCSF Bakersfield branch.
(c) The next stage of this tier continues with UC Davis as the primary focus of northward expansion into the North State. UC Davis's established medical school provides a promising "easier" second wave of this policy. Investing in North State UC Davis medical campuses and facilities within Colusa, Glenn, Lake, Mendocino, and other Counties, as well as further north Central Valley areas like Sacramento, Sutter, and Placer Counties, will address the third target area of underserved communities.

SECTION 2. CSU Nursing Program Expansion - Tier Two

(a) This tier of the policy focuses on improving nursing programs at CSU campuses across the target locations, but eventually statewide. This provides a greater funnel into the nursing workforce to address staffing shortages, especially in areas that are already facing health Crises.
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SECTION 3. State-Sponsored Medical Academy - Tier Three
(a) This tier is to focus on creating accountability for entry-level positions within the healthcare industry. This includes, but is not limited to, Medical Assistants (MA), Dental Assistants (DA), Certified Nursing Assistants (CNA), phlebotomists, and emergency medical technicians (EMTs).
(b) After the Medical Academy is established and running, Phase 2 will introduce intermediate clinical careers. This includes licensed vocational nurses (LVNs), respiratory therapists, radiologic technologists, and surgical technologists. Phase 3 will then introduce healthcare administration careers, including medical billers, medical coders, revenue cycle management, health information management, and insurance authorization specialists. This tier is structured to address patient-care shortages immediately, then later round out the broader healthcare workforce with more niche positions and administrative roles.