

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Public Health Service Act to maintain the Rural Communities
Opioid Response Program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. WELCH) introduced the following bill; which
was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to maintain the
Rural Communities Opioid Response Program, and for
other purposes.

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 “RCORP Authorization
5 Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE PRO-**
7 **GRAM.**

8 Subpart I of part D of title III of the Public Health
9 Service Act is amended by inserting after section 330A–
10 2 (42 U.S.C. 254c–1b) the following:

1 **“SEC. 330A-3. RURAL COMMUNITIES OPIOID RESPONSE**
2 **PROGRAM.**

3 “(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary, acting
4 through the Administrator of the Health Resources and
5 Services Administration (in this section referred to as the
6 ‘Administrator’), shall maintain a program to be known
7 as the Rural Communities Opioid Response Program to
8 establish and expand prevention, treatment, and recovery
9 services in rural areas (as defined by the Secretary) for
10 substance use disorders (including opioid use disorder), re-
11 lated behavioral health conditions, and other related public
12 health issues.

13 “(b) GRANTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the pro-
15 gram under this section, the Administrator may
16 award grants or cooperative agreements to eligible
17 entities.

18 “(2) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity that
19 receives a grant or cooperative agreement under this
20 section may use funds received through such grant
21 or cooperative agreement to—

22 “(A) conduct planning activities to
23 strengthen the capacity of cross-sector networks
24 and improve coordination of resources and care
25 involving substance use disorder;

1 “(B) identify and implement evidence-
2 based and sustainable delivery models to pro-
3 vide direct prevention, treatment, and recovery
4 services;

5 “(C) respond to new and emerging public
6 health issues involving substance use disorder;

7 “(D) provide targeted technical assistance
8 or evaluation activities with respect to grants or
9 cooperative agreements awarded under this sec-
10 tion; or

11 “(E) engage in such other activities as the
12 Secretary may determine appropriate to carry
13 out the program under this section.

14 “(3) PROHIBITED USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible
15 entity that is awarded a grant or cooperative agree-
16 ment under this section may not use funds provided
17 through such grant or cooperative agreement for the
18 acquisition or improvement of real property.

19 “(4) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a
20 grant or cooperative agreement under this section,
21 an entity shall be—

22 “(A) a State;

23 “(B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
24 tion (as such terms are defined in section 4 of

1 the Indian Self-Determination and Education
2 Assistance Act);

3 “(C) a State office of rural health; or

4 “(D) any other domestic entity.

5 “(5) APPLICATION.—To seek a grant or cooper-
6 ative agreement under this section, an eligible entity
7 shall submit to the Administrator an application at
8 such time, in such manner, and containing such in-
9 formation as the Administrator may require, includ-
10 ing a description of how the rural population in the
11 local community or region to be served will be in-
12 volved in the development and ongoing operations of
13 such activities, as applicable.

14 “(6) GRANT PERIOD.—The Administrator may
15 not award a grant or cooperative agreement under
16 this section for a period of more than 5 years.

17 “(7) FUNDING.—The Administrator may fully
18 fund a grant or cooperative agreement made under
19 this section at the time of the award.

20 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
21 are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section
22 \$165,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through
23 2031.”.