



AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Calendar No. \_\_\_\_\_

Purpose: To encourage qualified individuals to enter the forensic pathology workforce.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—118th Cong., 1st Sess.

**S. 3393**



To reauthorize the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, and for other purposes.

Referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_ and  
ordered to be printed

Ordered to lie on the table and to be printed

AMENDMENT intended to be proposed by Mr. MURPHY *for himself*

Viz:

*and  
Ms. Murkowski:*

1 At the appropriate place, insert the following:

2 **SEC. \_\_\_\_ . FORENSIC MEDICAL NEEDS.**

3 Part E of title VII of the Public Health Service Act  
4 (42 U.S.C. 294n et seq.) is amended by adding at the end  
5 the following:

6 **“Subpart 4—Forensic Pathology Workforce**

7 **“SEC. 779. GRANTS TO ADDRESS THE FORENSIC MEDICINE**  
8 **SERVICE PROVIDER SHORTAGE.**

9 **“(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:**

10 **“(1) FORENSIC MEDICINE SERVICE PRO-**  
11 **VIDER.—**The term ‘forensic medicine service pro-  
12 vider’ has the meaning given the term in section 6

1 of Billy's Law (34 U.S.C. 40506 note; Public Law  
2 117-327).

3 “(2) SECRETARY.—The term ‘Secretary’ means  
4 the Secretary, acting through the Collaborating Of-  
5 fice of Medical Examiners and Coroners of the Cen-  
6 ters for Disease Control and Prevention.

7 “(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

8 “(1) to encourage and incentivize qualified med-  
9 ical school graduates to enter the practice of forensic  
10 pathology by supporting forensic pathology fellow-  
11 ships;

12 “(2) to encourage and incentivize qualified indi-  
13 viduals to enter the field of medicolegal death inves-  
14 tigation to conduct death investigations in support  
15 of forensic medicine service providers; and

16 “(3) to support qualified individuals who enter  
17 the field of forensic toxicology through employment  
18 in forensic toxicology laboratories in the acquisition  
19 of skills in pharmacology, advanced and emerging  
20 toxicological methods, and instrumentation needed to  
21 assist with the interpretation of toxicological find-  
22 ings.

23 “(c) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall award grants to  
24 eligible entities described in subsection (d) to assist such

1 entities in addressing their shortages by offering the train-  
2 ing and fellowships described in subsection (e)(1).

3 “(d) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to receive a grant  
4 under this section, an entity shall be—

5 “(1) a graduate medical education program ac-  
6 credited by the Accreditation Council for Graduate  
7 Medical Education that offers a forensic pathology  
8 fellowship that is so accredited;

9 “(2) a publicly funded medical examiner or cor-  
10 oner office; or

11 “(3) a forensic toxicology laboratory that sup-  
12 ports medical examiner and coroner offices.

13 “(e) USE OF GRANT FUNDS.—

14 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity that re-  
15 ceives a grant under this section shall use the grant  
16 funds—

17 “(A) to provide payment to individuals se-  
18 lected by such entity for a forensic pathology  
19 fellowship for salary, fringe benefits, related  
20 supply expenses, and other educational expenses  
21 of such individuals;

22 “(B) provide training for medicolegal death  
23 investigators, including paying for the costs of  
24 continuing education for medicolegal death in-  
25 vestigators for purposes of such individuals—

1                   “(i) becoming certified by the Amer-  
2                   ican Board of Medicolegal Death Investiga-  
3                   tion (or another accredited certifying orga-  
4                   nization); and

5                   “(ii) maintaining such certification; or

6                   “(C) to assist eligible entities in providing  
7                   the education and training to individuals em-  
8                   ployed by such entities necessary—

9                   “(i) to gain initial competency, addi-  
10                  tional training, and continuing education  
11                  in pharmacology and advanced and emerg-  
12                  ing toxicological methods and instrumenta-  
13                  tion needed to assist with the interpreta-  
14                  tion of toxicological findings;

15                  “(ii) to become certified by the Amer-  
16                  ican Board of Forensic Toxicology, the  
17                  American Association of Clinical Chem-  
18                  istry, or another accredited certifying orga-  
19                  nization; or

20                  “(iii) to maintain such certification or  
21                  to obtain recertification by such a certi-  
22                  fying organization.

23                  “(2) ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS.—An eligible enti-  
24                  ty that receives a grant under this section may use  
25                  not more than 15 percent of the total amount of the

1 grant for administrative expenses, including grant  
2 management services.

3 “(f) RECIPIENT REQUIREMENTS.—To be eligible to  
4 receive a fellowship funded by a grant under this section,  
5 an individual shall—

6 “(1)(A) be enrolled in, or shall have completed,  
7 an anatomical pathology or anatomical and clinical  
8 pathology residency program accredited by the Ac-  
9 creditation Council for Graduate Medical Education;  
10 and

11 “(B) not be, and shall never have been, in de-  
12 fault on any public or private student loan;

13 “(2)(A) be an individual who has completed a  
14 program of baccalaureate or postbaccalaureate edu-  
15 cation and earned a degree, or completed a con-  
16 centration, in forensic science, natural science, an-  
17 thropology, nursing, or other medical and forensic-  
18 related fields; and

19 “(B) be a coroner or medicolegal death investi-  
20 gator working full-time at, or in a contractual rela-  
21 tionship with, a publicly funded medical examiner or  
22 coroner office who—

23 “(i) has not achieved, and is seeking, cer-  
24 tification by an accredited certification organi-  
25 zation described in subsection (e)(1)(B)(i); or

1           “(ii) who is seeking continuing education  
2           for purposes of maintaining such certification;

3           “(3)(A) have completed a program of bacca-  
4           laureate or postbaccalaureate education and earned  
5           a degree, or completed a concentration, in forensic  
6           science or physical or natural sciences, with a chem-  
7           istry, toxicology, or other closely related scientific or  
8           forensic component; and

9           “(B) be employed by the eligible entity as a tox-  
10          icologist or pharmacologist.

11          “(g) TAX WAIVER.—The payment amounts to an in-  
12          dividual under this section or any other benefit received  
13          by the individual from the grant recipient shall not be tax-  
14          able to the individual.

15          “(h) GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding  
16          grants under this section, the Secretary shall take into  
17          consideration—

18               “(1) the geographic distribution of grant fund-  
19               ing among the States;

20               “(2) the relative proportion of grant funding  
21               between rural and urban areas; and

22               “(3) the unique needs of rural communities, in-  
23               cluding—

1           “(A) communities with an incidence of in-  
2           dividuals with opioid use disorder that is above  
3           the national average; and

4           “(B) communities with a shortage of fo-  
5           rensic medicine service providers.

6           “(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

7           “(1) IN GENERAL.—There is authorized to be  
8           appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sec-  
9           tion \$13,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024  
10          through 2028.

11          “(2) ALLOCATIONS.—Of the amounts made  
12          available each fiscal year under paragraph (1), the  
13          Secretary shall allocate—

14               “(A) subject to paragraph (3), not less  
15               than \$7,000,000 for grants to eligible entities  
16               carrying out the purpose described in sub-  
17               section (e)(1)(A);

18               “(B) not less than \$3,000,000 for grants  
19               to eligible entities carrying out the purpose de-  
20               scribed in subsection (e)(1)(B); and

21               “(C) not less than \$3,000,000 for grants  
22               to eligible entities carrying out the purpose de-  
23               scribed in subsection (e)(1)(C).

24          “(3) FELLOWSHIP MINIMUM.—In allocating  
25          amounts for grants to eligible entities carrying out

1       the purpose described in subsection (e)(1)(A), the  
2       Secretary shall award sufficient grant funding to  
3       such entities to ensure that not fewer than 40 foren-  
4       sic pathology fellowships are funded.”.