

112TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1976

To authorize educational assistance under the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship program for pursuit of advanced degrees in physical therapy and occupational therapy.

---

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 8, 2011

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. COONS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Armed Services

---

## A BILL

To authorize educational assistance under the Armed Forces Health Professions Scholarship program for pursuit of advanced degrees in physical therapy and occupational therapy.

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

1     **SECTION 1. EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR ADVANCED**  
2                   **DEGREES IN PHYSICAL THERAPY AND OCCU-**  
3                   **PATIONAL THERAPY UNDER THE ARMED**  
4                   **FORCES HEALTH PROFESSIONS SCHOLAR-**  
5                   **SHIP PROGRAM.**

6     (a) **IN GENERAL.**—In accordance with guidance  
7 issued by the Secretary of Defense for purposes of this  
8 section, assistance under the Armed Forces Health Pro-  
9 fessions Scholarship program under subchapter I of chap-  
10 ter 105 of title 10, United States Code, shall be available  
11 for pursuit of a master's degree and a doctoral degree in  
12 the disciplines as follows:

13                   (1) Physical therapy.  
14                   (2) Occupational therapy.

15     (b) **TERMINATION.**—The guidance under subsection  
16 (a) shall provide that the availability of assistance as de-  
17 scribed in that subsection for pursuit of a degree in a dis-  
18 cipline covered by that subsection shall cease when the  
19 Secretary certifies to Congress that there no longer exists  
20 a current or projected shortfall in qualified personnel in  
21 that discipline in either of the following:

22                   (1) The military departments.  
23                   (2) Any major military medical treatment facil-  
24                   ity specializing in the rehabilitation of wounded  
25                   members of the Armed Forces.

26     (c) **SUNSET.**—

6 (2) CONTINUATION OF ONGOING ASSISTANCE.—  
7 Nothing in paragraph (1) shall be construed to ter-  
8 minate the provision of assistance under this section  
9 after the date specified in paragraph (1) to persons  
10 provided assistance under this section before or as of  
11 such date.

○