

# The Restoring the Doctors of Our Country through Scholarships Act of 2012 (RDOCS)

Sponsor: Congressman Jim McDermott, WA 7<sup>th</sup> Congressional District

## Section-by-Section Summary

**Section 1.** Titles the Bill.

**Section 2.** Findings.

**Section 3(a) and (b).** Establishes the general terms of RDOCS (an ROTC-like medical scholarship), which would be awarded to entering medical students in participating states, financed by federal funds:

- The scholarship will cover the entire cost of attending a state-sponsored medical school, including a cost-of-living stipend.
- In exchange for the scholarship, the recipient must agree to
  - (1) complete a residency in primary care,
  - (2) become licensed in his / her state of residence, and
  - (3) immediately after graduation practice medicine in a medically underserved area in that state for 5 years.

**Section 3(c).** The state will give preference to incoming students who enroll in accelerated family-medicine programs, and programs that include clinical training in either rural or underserved urban communities.

**Section 3(d).** The state will administer the RDOCS program.

**Section 3(e).** Provides that states administering an RDOCS program must supply 10% of the financing; the 90% balance will be financed by federal funds.

**Section 3(f).** Requires a state administering an RDOCS program to establish appropriate penalties for breach of contract, and prohibits the state from contracting with RDOCS participants on terms more favorable than under other federally funded health professions scholarships.

**Section 3(g).** Restricts the use of funds to operating the RDOCS program.

**Section 3(h) and (i).** Requires that the following reports be submitted:

- The state must report to HHS annually on the status of the RDOCS program.
- HHS must report annually to Congress on the primary-care shortage in each state and region, and the funding and programmatic changes needed to close the gap within both a 5- and 10-year period.

**Section 3(j).** Describes the remedies available to HHS if RDOCS participants breach their scholarship agreements.

**Section 3(k).** Definitions.

**Section 3(l).** Authorizes an appropriation of \$200 million for the 2013, 2014, 2015, and 2016 fiscal years.