

The following language for a medical-legal partnership federal demonstration project is included in the House Affordable Health Care For America Act.

For more information, please contact Executive Director Ellen Lawton, Esq. at [Ellen.Lawton@bmc.org](mailto:Ellen.Lawton@bmc.org) or (617) 414-3658.

----

SEC. 2537. MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS.

(a) IN GENERAL.-The Secretary shall establish a nationwide demonstration project consisting of-

(1) awarding grants to, and entering into contracts with, medical-legal partnerships to assist patients and their families to navigate health-related programs and activities; and

(2) evaluating the effectiveness of such partnerships.

(b) USE OF FUNDS.-Amounts received as a grant or contract under this section shall be used to assist patients and their families to navigate health care-related programs and activities and thereby achieve one or more of the following goals:

(1) Enhancing access to health care services.

(2) Improving health outcomes for low-income individuals.

(3) Reducing health disparities.

(4) Enhancing wellness and prevention of chronic conditions.

(c) PROHIBITION.-No funds under this section may be used-

(1) for any medical malpractice or other civil action or proceeding; or

(2) to assist individuals who are not lawfully present in the United States.

(d) REPORT.-Not later than 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress on the results of the demonstration project under this section. Such report shall include the following:

(1) A description of the extent to which medical-legal partnerships funded through this section achieved the goals described in subsection (b).

(2) Recommendations on the possibility of extending or expanding the demonstration project.

(e) DEFINITIONS.-In this section:

(1) The term "health disparities" has the meaning given to the term in section 3171 of the Public Health Service Act, as added by section 2301.

(2) The term "medical-legal partnership" means an entity-

(A) that is a collaboration between-

(i) a community health center, public hospital, children's hospital, or other provider of health care services to a significant number of low-income beneficiaries; and

(ii) one or more attorneys; and

(B) whose primary mission is to assist patients and their families navigate health care-related programs and activities.

(3) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.-To carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2011 through 2015.