

AMENDMENT NO. _____ Calendar No. _____

Purpose: To provide medical training to U.S. Border Patrol agents.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES—116th Cong., 1st Sess.

S. 2162

To require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to annually hire at least 600 new Border Patrol agents, to report quarterly to Congress on the status of the Border Patrol workforce, and to conduct a comprehensive staffing analysis.

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. PETERS

Viz:

1 On page 4, strike line 1 and insert the following:

2 **SEC. 4. MEDICAL TRAINING FOR BORDER PATROL AGENTS.**

3 (a) MEDICAL TRAINING.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—Section 411 of the Home-
5 land Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211) is amend-
6 ed—

7 (A) in subsection (l)—

8 (i) by striking “The Commissioner”

9 and inserting the following:

1 maintain an EMT or paramedic certifi-
2 cation.

3 “(iii) LODGING AND PER DIEM.—
4 Lodging and per diem shall be made avail-
5 able to border patrol agents attending
6 training described in clause (ii) if such
7 training is not available at a location with-
8 in commuting distance of the agent’s resi-
9 dence or worksite.

10 “(iv) SERVICE COMMITMENT.—Any
11 U.S. Border Patrol agent who completes a
12 paramedic certification preparation pro-
13 gram pursuant to clause (i) shall—

14 “(I) complete 3 years of service
15 as a U.S. Border Patrol agent fol-
16 lowing the completion of such train-
17 ing; or

18 “(II) reimburse U.S. Customs
19 and Border Protection in an amount
20 equal to the product of—

21 “(aa) the cost of providing
22 such training to such agent; mul-
23 tiplied by

24 “(bb) the percentage of the
25 service required under subclause

1 (I) that the agent failed to com-
2 plete.

3 “(B) INCREASE IN RATE OF PAY FOR BOR-
4 DER PATROL MEDICAL CERTIFICATION.—

5 “(i) EMT CERTIFICATION.—A U.S.
6 Border Patrol agent who has completed
7 EMT training pursuant to subparagraph
8 (A)(i) and has a current, State-issued or
9 State-recognized certification as an EMT
10 shall receive, in addition to the pay to
11 which the agent is otherwise entitled under
12 this section, an amount equal to 5 percent
13 of such pay.

14 “(ii) PARAMEDIC CERTIFICATION.—A
15 U.S. Border Patrol agent who has com-
16 pleted paramedic training pursuant to sub-
17 paragraph (A)(i) and has a current, State-
18 issued or State-recognized certification as
19 a paramedic shall receive, in addition to
20 the pay to which the agent is otherwise en-
21 titled under this section (except for sub-
22 paragraph (A)), an amount equal to 10
23 percent of such pay.

24 “(iii) EXISTING CERTIFICATIONS.—A
25 U.S. Border Patrol agent who did not par-

1 participate in the training made available pur-
2 suant to subparagraph (A)(i), but, as of
3 the date of the enactment of this Act, has
4 a current State-issued or State-recognized
5 EMT or paramedic certification, shall re-
6 ceive, in addition to the pay to which the
7 agent is otherwise entitled under this sec-
8 tion (except for subparagraph (A) or (B)),
9 an amount equal to—

10 “(I) 5 percent of such pay for an

11 EMT certification; and

12 “(II) 10 percent of such pay for

13 a paramedic certification.

14 “(C) AVAILABILITY OF MEDICALLY

15 TRAINED BORDER PATROL AGENTS.—Not later

16 than 3 years after the date of the enactment of

17 the Securing America’s Borders Act of 2019,

18 the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border

19 Protection shall—

20 “(i) ensure that—

21 “(I) U.S. Border Patrol agents

22 with current EMT or paramedic cer-

23 tifications are stationed at each U.S.

24 Border Patrol sector and remote sta-

1 tion along the southern border to the
2 greatest extent possible;

3 “(II) 10 percent of all U.S. Bor-
4 der Patrol agents have EMT certifi-
5 cations and comprise not fewer than
6 10 percent of all border patrol agents
7 assigned to each U.S. Border Patrol
8 sector; and

9 “(III) 1 percent of all U.S. Bor-
10 der Patrol agents have paramedic cer-
11 tifications and comprise not fewer
12 than 1 percent of all U.S. Border Pa-
13 trol agents assigned to each U.S. Bor-
14 der Patrol sector; and

15 “(ii) in determining the assigned posts
16 of U.S. Border Patrol agents who have re-
17 ceived training under subparagraph (A)(i),
18 give priority to remote stations and for-
19 ward operating bases.

20 “(D) MEDICAL SUPPLIES.—

21 “(i) MINIMUM LIST.—The Commis-
22 sioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protec-
23 tion shall provide minimum medical sup-
24 plies to each U.S. Border Patrol agent
25 with an EMT or paramedic certification

1 and to each U.S. Border Patrol sector, in-
2 cluding all remote stations and forward op-
3 erating bases and for use while on patrol.

4 Such supplies shall include—

5 “(I) supplies designed for chil-
6 dren;

7 “(II) first aid kits; and

8 “(III) oral hydration supplies,
9 such as water.

10 “(ii) CONSULTATION.—In developing
11 the minimum list of medical supplies re-
12 quired under clause (i), the Commissioner
13 shall consult national organizations with
14 expertise in emergency medical care, in-
15 cluding emergency medical care of chil-
16 dren.

17 “(E) MOTOR VEHICLES.—The Commis-
18 sioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection
19 shall make available appropriate motor vehicles
20 to U.S. Border Patrol agents with current EMT
21 or paramedic certifications to enable them to
22 provide necessary emergency medical assist-
23 ance.”; and

1 (B) in subsection (r), by striking “section,
2 the terms” and inserting the following: “sec-
3 tion—

4 “(1) the term ‘child’ means any individual who
5 has not reached 18 years of age; and

6 “(2) the terms”.

7 (2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—

8 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
9 as may be necessary to carry out section 411(l)(2)
10 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by
11 paragraph (1)(A).

12 (b) IDENTIFYING AND TREATING INDIVIDUALS EX-
13 PERIENCING MEDICAL DISTRESS.—

14 (1) ONLINE TRAINING.—

15 (A) IN GENERAL.—Beginning on the date
16 that is 90 days after the date of the enactment
17 of this Act, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs
18 and Border Protection shall require all U.S.
19 Border Patrol agents, including agents with
20 EMT or paramedic certification, to complete an
21 online training program that meets nationally
22 recognized standards for the medical care of
23 children that will enable U.S. Border Patrol
24 agents—

1 (i) to identify common signs of med-
2 ical distress in children; and

3 (ii) to ensure the timely transport of
4 sick or injured children to an appropriate
5 medical provider.

6 (B) CONTRACT.—In developing or selecting
7 an online training program under subparagraph
8 (A), the Commissioner may enter into a con-
9 tract with a national professional medical asso-
10 ciation of pediatric medical providers.

11 (2) VOICE ACCESS TO MEDICAL PROFES-
12 SIONALS.—

13 (A) IN GENERAL.—The Commissioner of
14 U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall en-
15 sure that all remote U.S. Border Patrol sta-
16 tions, forward operating bases, and remote
17 ports of entry on the southern border have 24-
18 hour voice access to a medical command physi-
19 cian whose board certification includes the abil-
20 ity to perform this role or a mid-level health
21 care provider with pediatric training for con-
22 sultations regarding the medical needs of indi-
23 viduals, including children, taken into custody
24 near the United States border.

1 (B) ACCEPTABLE MEANS OF ACCESS.—Ac-
2 cess under subparagraph (A) may be accom-
3 plished through mobile phones, satellite mobile
4 radios, or other means prescribed by the Com-
5 missioner.

6 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**