

HR 8245

The Dr. Joseph Costa Honoring Essential Americans Risking Their Safety Act of 2020

Congress: 116 (2019–2021, Ended)

Chamber: House

Policy Area: Health

Introduced: Sep 14, 2020

Current Status: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and

Latest Action: Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned. (Sep 14, 2020)

Official Text: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/116th-congress/house-bill/8245>

Sponsor

Name: Rep. Ruppersberger, C. A. Dutch [D-MD-2]

Party: Democratic • **State:** MD • **Chamber:** House

Cosponsors (4 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Del. San Nicolas, Michael F. Q. [D-GU-At Large]	D · GU		Oct 23, 2020
Rep. Jackson Lee, Sheila [D-TX-18]	D · TX		Oct 23, 2020
Rep. Haaland, Debra A. [D-NM-1]	D · NM		Oct 27, 2020
Rep. Carson, Andre [D-IN-7]	D · IN		Nov 9, 2020

Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 14, 2020
Energy and Commerce Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 14, 2020
Ways and Means Committee	House	Referred To	Sep 14, 2020

Subjects & Policy Tags

Policy Area:

Health

Related Bills

No related bills are listed.

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This bill establishes a compensation program for, and registry to monitor the health of, certain individuals who worked in hospitals during the COVID-19 (i.e., coronavirus disease 2019) emergency. It also establishes educational benefits for eligible individuals who provided care to residents of long-term care, skilled nursing, post-acute care, and other nursing facilities during the emergency.

With respect to hospital workers, the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) must provide funds to hospitals in COVID-19 hot spots for supplemental payments for workers who provide direct care, which may include cleaning and other nonmedical activities, to COVID-19 patients during the emergency.

Additionally, the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) must develop a voluntary registry of physicians, nurses, and non-physician health care specialists who worked at a hospital or other care site during the emergency and must monitor the long-term health status of individuals on this registry who test positive for COVID-19. NIOSH must also make the registry available to public health researchers and may award grants to states to facilitate its development.

With respect to the educational benefits, the Department of Education or HHS must repay or cancel a percentage of certain loans for each six-month period an individual works in a qualifying facility, subject to a maximum percentage cap. HHS must also provide eligible individuals with an educational grant, subject to certain conditions, to obtain post-secondary credentials for health care careers in nursing care facilities.

Actions Timeline

- **Sep 14, 2020:** Introduced in House
- **Sep 14, 2020:** Referred to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Education and Labor, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.