



AMERICAN ACADEMY OF
FAMILY PHYSICIANS
STRONG MEDICINE FOR AMERICA

April 8, 2014

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
Chairman
Subcommittee on Primary Health & Aging
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

On behalf of the 110,600 physician and student members of the American Academy of Family Physicians (AAFP), I write to thank you for your commitment to expanding the primary care workforce to ensure an adequate number of physicians to meet the needs of our growing and aging population.

As the largest primary care physicians' specialty organization solely dedicated to primary care, the AAFP commends you on the introduction of the *Expanding Primary Care Access and Workforce Act* which is aimed at supporting our nation's primary care physician workforce. Your legislation would authorize and provide funding for several federal programs which are essential to an adequate primary care workforce including the National Health Service Corps and Teaching Health Center (THC) programs. It also recognizes the key role of payment in physician specialty choice and includes important provisions to address the current disparity.

The Tenth Report of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) Advisory Committee on Training in Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry recommended that Congress restore and enhance funding for Title VII Section 747 Primary Care Training and Enhancement (PCTE) grants program. Although we regret that the bill as drafted would not reauthorize the PCTE program, we pledge to work with you to extend the authorization of this vital program.

We appreciate your continuing leadership in ensuring that our nation will have a health care delivery system with a solid foundation of primary care physicians. Please feel free to contact Teresa Baker, AAFP Senior Government Relations Representative at tbaker@aafp.org or 202-232-9033.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Cain, MD, FAAFP
Board Chair
American Academy of Family Physicians

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