

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 19, 2015

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-232, U.S. Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-204, US Capitol  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Speaker Boehner and Leader Pelosi:

As bipartisan bicameral negotiations begin to unfold in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress about the future of the nation's health programs, we write to urge House Leadership to support a program that currently is having a demonstrable impact on primary care physician workforce development – the Teaching Health Center Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program.

Currently, THCs are training more than 500 primary care physicians and dentists at 60 training sites located in 24 states.<sup>1</sup> THCs are located in federally qualified health centers, rural health clinics, and tribal clinics – organizations that care for underserved communities and populations. THC programs have expanded access to care for thousands of patients and have created a physician and dentist workforce pipeline for those communities.

The TCHGME program, funded since 2011 and set to expire on September 30, has increased the numbers of primary care physicians and dentists training to care for underserved populations nationwide. They also play an important role in

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<sup>1</sup> Robert Graham Center: Teaching Health Center GME Funding Instability Threatens Program Viability | Brown, Klink

distributing physicians to communities outside of large urban areas where most teaching hospitals are located. Providing GME training opportunities in diverse geographic locations is important because we know that 55% of all family physicians practice within 100 miles of their residency program and 46% will practice within 50 miles of their training program.<sup>2</sup>

The THCGME program, in our opinion, has met its charge and is worthy of continued support. We look forward to working with you to enhance the program and allow for it to continue its remarkable work of training the next generation of primary care physicians and expanding access to vulnerable populations.

Sincerely,



Niki Tsongas  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Ryan K. Zinke  
Member of Congress



Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress



Robert J. Dold  
Member of Congress



David Scott  
Member of Congress

<sup>2</sup> Family Medicine: Family Medicine graduate Proximity to Their Site of Training | February 2015 | Fagan, Gibbons, Finnegan, Petterson

Bill Shuster

Bill Shuster  
Member of Congress

Tim Murphy

Tim Murphy  
Member of Congress

Joe Courtney

Joe Courtney  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Charles B. Rangel

Charles B. Rangel  
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky

Jan Schakowsky  
Member of Congress

Steve Cohen

Steve Cohen  
Member of Congress

Luis V. Gutiérrez

Luis V. Gutiérrez  
Member of Congress

John Garamendi

John Garamendi  
Member of Congress

Mike Quigley

Mike Quigley  
Member of Congress



Mark Takano  
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



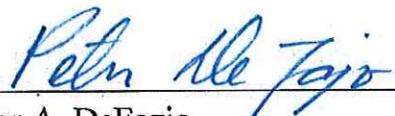
Derek Kilmer  
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson  
Member of Congress



Rick Larsen  
Member of Congress



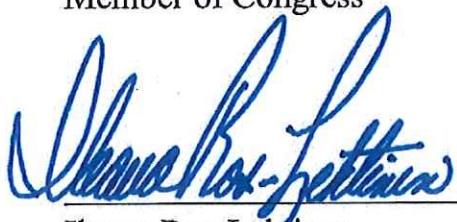
Peter A. DeFazio  
Member of Congress



Danny K. Davis  
Member of Congress



Bobby L. Rush  
Member of Congress



Ileana Ros-Lehtinen  
Member of Congress



Dennis A. Ross  
Member of Congress



Peter King  
Member of Congress



Mike Thompson  
Member of Congress



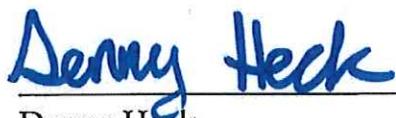
Elizabeth H. Esty  
Member of Congress



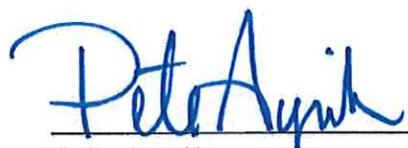
David P. Roe  
Member of Congress



David B. McKinley, P.E.  
Member of Congress



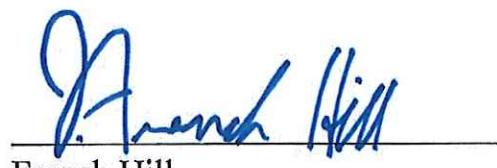
Denny Heck  
Member of Congress



Pete Aguilar  
Member of Congress



James A. Himes  
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French Hill  
Member of Congress



Brenda L. Lawrence  
Member of Congress



Jim Costa  
Member of Congress

Kathleen Rice

Kathleen Rice  
Member of Congress

John Conyers, Jr.

John Conyers, Jr.  
Member of Congress

Dave Loebsack

Dave Loebsack  
Member of Congress

Matt Cartwright

Matt Cartwright  
Member of Congress

Dan Newhouse

Dan Newhouse  
Member of Congress

Stacey Plaskett

Stacey Plaskett  
Member of Congress

Bruce Poliquin

Bruce Poliquin  
Member of Congress

Stevan Pearce

Stevan Pearce  
Member of Congress

Dan Benishek

Dan Benishek, M.D.  
Member of Congress

Jared Polis

Jared Polis  
Member of Congress

Mark DeSaulnier

Mark DeSaulnier  
Member of Congress

Terri Sewell

Terri Sewell  
Member of Congress