

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 16, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor
Health and Human Services, and Education
2358-B Rayburn House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor
Health and Human Services, and Education
1016 Longworth House Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill, we respectfully urge you to support the nation's health care workforce by including \$336 million for Title VII health professions education and training programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). These programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce training and development. Furthermore, they are the only federal programs designed to fill gaps in the supply of health professionals, respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, and increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

Title VII programs have a longstanding history of helping the nation's health care workforce adapt to its changing medical needs. These programs help strengthen the supply of adult and pediatric primary care professionals while also preparing the next generation of providers. Title VII programs are also critical in helping advance timely priorities, such as strengthening training opportunities in geriatrics as well as integrating mental and oral health in primary care. For example, some Title VII grantees provide chronic care management for seniors while others provide education and training in Alzheimer's disease. Additionally, these programs are working to address the mental health gaps in our nation's health care system by developing and training the next generation of behavioral health providers.

At a time when the country is facing unprecedented provider shortages, as well as a rapidly growing and aging population, it is necessary to continue our strong commitment to programs that advance our healthcare work force, such as:

- Area Health Education Centers (AHEC),
- Allied Health,
- Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training,
- Centers of Excellence (COE),
- Clinical Training in Interprofessional Practice,
- Faculty Loan Repayment,
- Geriatrics Training,
- Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP),
- Mental and Behavioral Health programs,
- Oral Health Training,
- Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment,

- Primary Care Medicine,
- Public Health and Preventive Medicine,
- Rural Physician Training Grants,
- Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS),
- Teaching Health Center (THC) Planning Grants, and
- Workforce Information and Analysis.

These education and training programs guide current and aspiring health professionals to high-demand careers. Support for these programs will ensure that the distribution, quality, and diversity of our nation's health professions workforce continues to improve and that the workforce is prepared to meet the country's evolving and emerging health care needs.

We respectfully urge you to make the nation's next generation of health professionals a priority with a strong investment in Title VII programs in the FY 2019 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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