

Health Education Centers. It would provide \$297.3 million to the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) for Title VII Health Professions Programs overall, which would be a 13.3-percent increase above FY 2016 levels. The increase primarily represents the transfer of the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program from SAMHSA to HRSA and would include \$50 million for that program. The Senate bill again seeks to eliminate the Health Careers Opportunity Program. It would increase funding for the Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students to \$49 million, an increase of \$3 million.

- *Rural Health Program* – The Senate measure would provide \$152.6 million to HRSA for rural health programs, an increase of \$3 million. It proposes to focus resources on programs to help rural communities, such as telehealth.
- *Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)* – The bill would provide CMS with funding consistent with the current FY2016 level.
- *Opioid Abuse Prevention and Treatment* – The bill would provide \$261 million, an increase of \$126 million, or 93 percent, for programs in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and HRSA that are targeted to combat opioid abuse. This includes a \$28 million increase for CDC Prescription Drug Overdose program, a \$49 million increase to SAMHSA for treatment, prevention, and overdose reversal, and \$50 million for Community Health Center treatment and prevention. Further, the bill would continue to provide \$1.9 billion for the Substance Abuse Prevention and Treatment Block Grant, \$94 million in mandatory funds to Community Health Centers, and add \$52.5 million to the National Institute on Drug Abuse at the NIH.

During debate on the bill, by a vote of 18-11, the committee adopted an amendment, offered by Sen. Patty Murray (D-WA), to block the use of federal funds for actions that interfere with a doctor's ability to prescribe medicinal marijuana in accordance with state law.

The House Appropriations subcommittee may take up its FY 2017 bill later this month.

3. AAFP COMMENTS ON ASSESSING INTEROPERABILITY FOR HIT SYSTEMS

On June 3, the AAFP sent a [letter](#) to the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology in response to a request for information about assessing interoperability for MACRA. The AAFP responded to questions posed in the request for information on the following three topics:

- Measurement population and key components of interoperability that should be measured;
- Current data sources and potential metrics
- Other data sources and metrics ONC should consider with respect to interoperability measurement more broadly.

4. FamMedPAC SPONSORS THREE FUNDRAISING EVENTS

FamMedPAC sponsored these physician-only events, which allowed for a focused discussion on healthcare issues with the legislators.

- **Rep. Michelle Lujan Grisham (D-NM)**, in her second term in Congress, is the former Secretary of Health in New Mexico and was a guest speaker at the 2014 Family Medicine Congressional Conference (FMCC).
- **Rep. Joe Heck, DO (R-NV)**, an Osteopathic physician, is currently running for the U.S. Senate. Rep. Heck was a featured speaker at the 2013 FMCC.