

September 13, 2021

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone:

Our associations have had the chance to review the draft budget reconciliation legislation released by your Committee and we wanted to express our great appreciation for your inclusion of \$6 billion for the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program.

The funding provided in the draft bill will help ensure sustainable funding that will help increase access for rural and urban medically underserved Americans by training and producing primary care physicians to serve these populations for the future. We know that you have historically been a great champion of the THCGME program and are grateful that you and others on the Committee have considered our funding requests so favorably.

The funding will permit continued growth of existing Teaching Health Centers, the addition of new Teaching Health Centers, increases in the per resident allocation and ultimately should facilitate a robust increase in the number of residents in training from the current level of 769. Your legislation should also help ensure that each state could have at least one THC, which is an improvement over the current presence of THCs in only half our states. The addition of many new physicians in rural and urban medically underserved areas will make an important long-term impact on the physician shortage – a shortage that adversely impacts the health of so many Americans.

We look forward to continuing to work with you as the legislative process moves forward.

Sincerely,

American Association of Teaching Health Centers  
Society of General Internal Medicine  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
Council of Academic Family Medicine  
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists  
American Osteopathic Association  
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine  
National Association of Community Health Centers