

December 8, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray
Chair
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Murray and Chairman Sanders:

Our associations are writing to express our hope that as the budget reconciliation process continues, the Senate will be able to preserve the \$3.4 billion allocated for the Teaching Health Centers Graduate Medical Education (THCGME) program in Section 31003 of the House-passed version of the Build Back Better Act.

As you both know, being such champions of the THCGME program, the funding provided in the Build Back Better Act 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.

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. Section 31003 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
American Academy of Family Physicians
National Association of Community Health Centers
Council of Academic Family Medicine
American Association of Colleges of Osteopathic Medicine
Society of General Internal Medicine
American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
American Osteopathic Association

cc: The Honorable Chuck Schumer