



REAUTHORIZE TITLE VII HEALTH PROFESSION TRAINING GRANTS

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend that the reauthorization of the Title VII Health Professions programs restructure Section 747 to train primary care physicians for the future health care system. For health care reforms to succeed, the Primary Care Medicine and Dentistry Cluster grant program must be revitalized to meet the ongoing need for family physicians. The reauthorization bill must establish appropriate program goals and authorize appropriations for evaluation to demonstrate efficacy. Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) is expected to reintroduce her bill to reauthorize all of Title VII.

Section 747 Accomplishments

- Increases in the nation's primary care workforce;
- Increases in the number of physicians serving in underserved areas;
- Develops a family medicine educational infrastructure;
- Supports curriculum changes to develop evidence-based practice training within family medicine and innovations in training around emerging health care issues.

Key Issues in Reauthorization of Section 747 Program

- Grants should be available to departments and residencies.
- The authorized funding levels should allow for adequate resources both to fund the Section 747 grant program and to establish effective evaluations of the Title VII programs going forward.
- Patient outcomes and education and training successes should be assessed by evaluation metrics.
- Evaluation metrics need to be clear and meaningful for effective administration by Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

BACKGROUND

The legislative authorization of the health professions training grant programs (Title VII of the Public Health Services Act) lapsed in 2003. Title VII, Section 747 is the only program aimed directly at training primary care physicians. On December 12, 2008, the Institute of Medicine released a report which points to the drastic decline in Title VII funding and describing these workforce training programs as "an undervalued asset."

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