

DIANA DEGETTE  
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April 2, 2009

Representative David Obey  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Todd Tiahrt  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS,  
Education and Related Agencies  
Appropriations Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4329

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND  
COMMERCE  
VICE CHAIRMAN  
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SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND  
INVESTIGATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT  
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE  
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION


Dear Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Tiahrt:


As you begin your work on the fiscal year (FY) 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to increase funding for the Title VII health professions programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) to \$330,000,000. As you know, these programs provide direct financial support for health care workforce development and education. In addition, they are the only federal programs designed to train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, as well as increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

Chronic underfunding – including a drastic 51.5 percent overall funding cut in FY 2006 – led the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to characterize the programs as “an undervalued asset” in a December 2008 report. At a time of serious health professions shortages, reducing this resource already has had devastating effects on the country’s neediest communities. By reinvesting in the Title VII programs, you will enable them to continue to improve the distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce in a manner that is consistent both with the needs of the nation and the President’s pledge to invest in strengthening the health care workforce.

We respectfully urge you to provide \$330 million for the Title VII programs in the FY 2010 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill. We greatly appreciate your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

  
DIANA DEGETTE  
Member of Congress

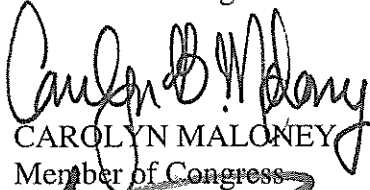
  
CHAKA FATTAH  
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CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS  
Member of Congress

  
EDOLPHUS TOWNS  
Member of Congress



JOHN DINGELL  
Member of Congress



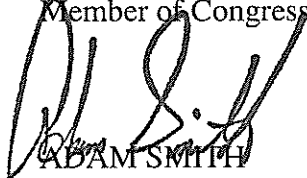
CAROLYN MALONEY  
Member of Congress



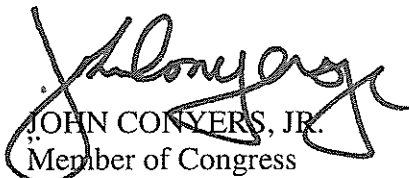
DAVID WU  
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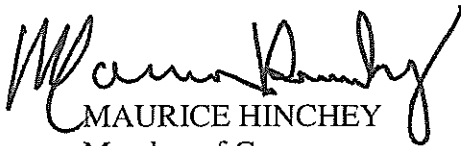
MAXINE WATERS  
Member of Congress



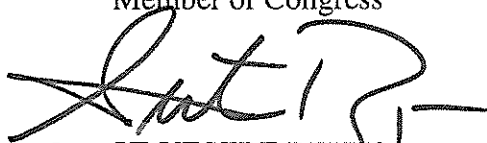
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MAURICE HINCHEY  
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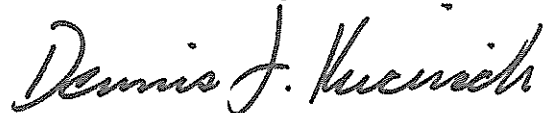
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MIKE ROSS  
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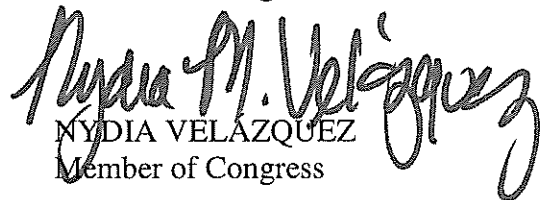
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GRACE NAPOLITANO  
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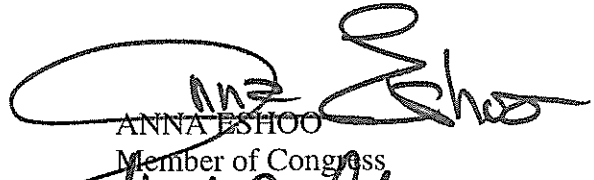
DAN MAFFEI  
Member of Congress



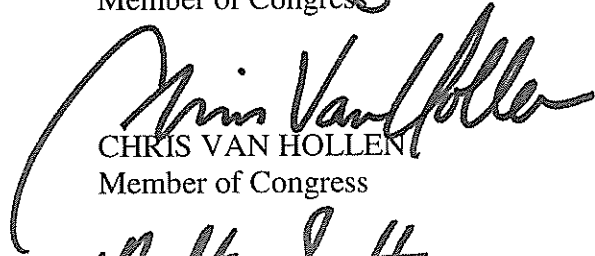
JIM LANGEVIN  
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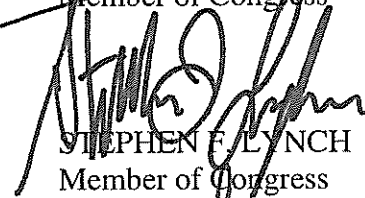
DENNIS CARDOZA  
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ANNA ESHOO  
Member of Congress



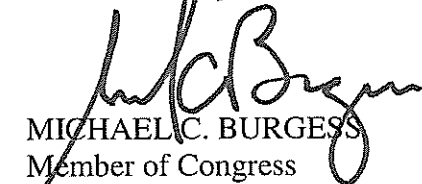
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN  
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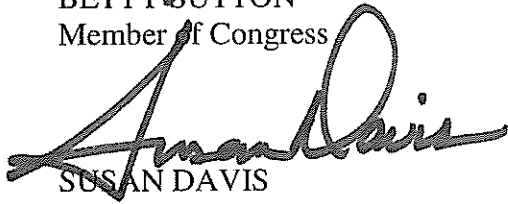
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MICHAEL C. BURGESS  
Member of Congress



SUSAN DAVIS  
Member of Congress



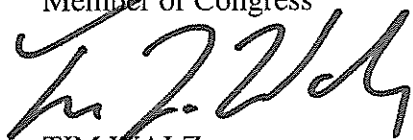
TIM BISHOP  
Member of Congress



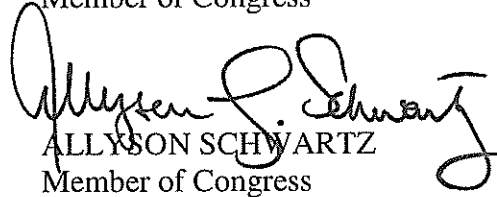
GARY PETERS  
Member of Congress



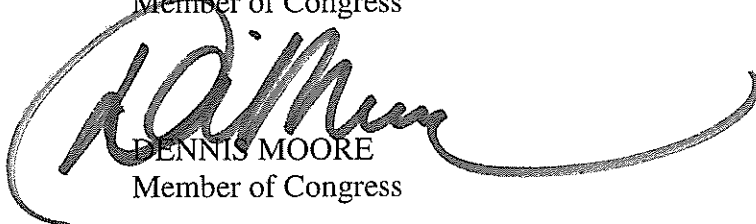
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