

DIANA DEGETTE
1ST DISTRICT, COLORADO

2421 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4431
FAX (202) 225-5657

DISTRICT OFFICE:
600 GRANT STREET, SUITE 202
DENVER, CO 80203
(303) 844-4988
FAX (303) 844-4996

E-mail: degette@mail.house.gov

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

CHIEF DEPUTY WHIP

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
COMMERCE
VICE CHAIRMAN

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH

SUBCOMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND
INVESTIGATION

SUBCOMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT
AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, TRADE
AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

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

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.

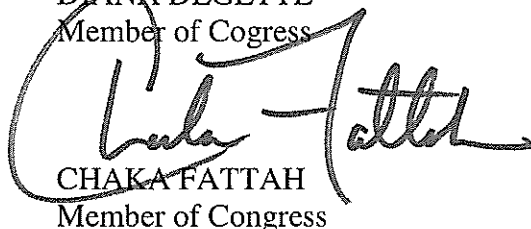
Chronic underfunding – including a drastic 51.5 percent overall funding cut in FY 2006 – led the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to characterize the programs as “an undervalued asset” in a December 2008 report. At a time of serious health professions shortages, reducing this resource already has had devastating 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
Member of Congress



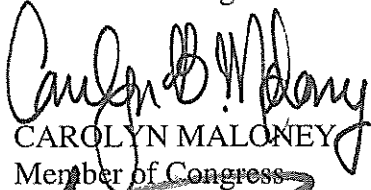
CATHY MCMORRIS RODGERS
Member of Congress



EDOLPHUS TOWNS
Member of Congress



JOHN DINGELL
Member of Congress



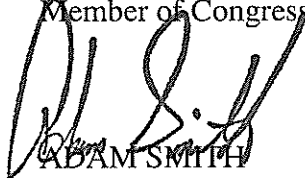
CAROLYN MALONEY
Member of Congress



DAVID WU
Member of Congress



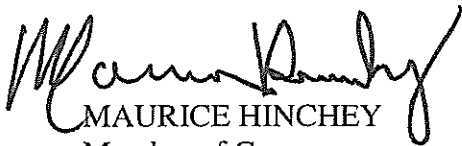
MAXINE WATERS
Member of Congress



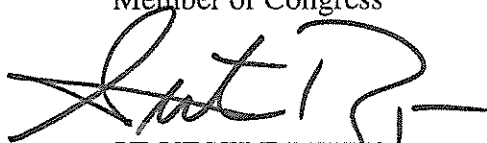
ADAM SMITH
Member of Congress




JOHN CONYERS, JR.
Member of Congress



MAURICE HINCHEY
Member of Congress



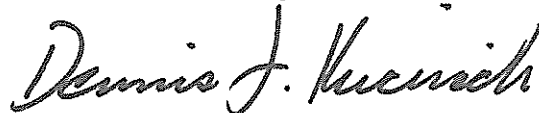
SILVESTRE REYES
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MIKE ROSS
Member of Congress



MIKE MCINTYRE
Member of Congress



DENNIS KUCINICH
Member of Congress



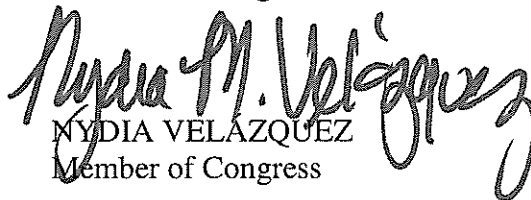
TAMMY BALDWIN
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ELLEN TAUSCHER
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BILL PASCRELL
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Linda J. Sánchez

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Paul Hodes

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Carol Shea-Porter

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Ron Kind

RON KIND
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Michael E. Capuano

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Earl Pomeroy

EARL POMEROY
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Mazie Hirono

MAZIE HIRONO
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GRACE NAPOLITANO
Member of Congress



RICK LARSEN
Member of Congress



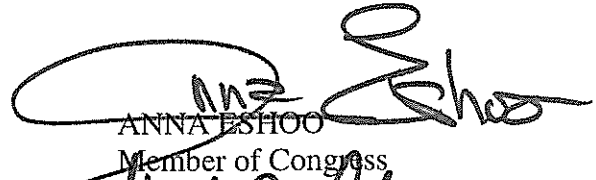
DAN MAFFEI
Member of Congress



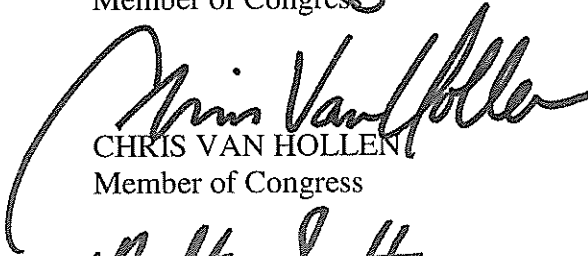
JIM LANGEVIN
Member of Congress



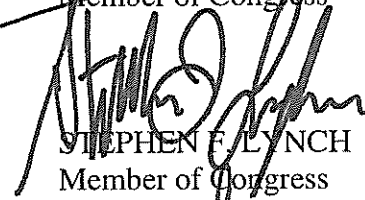
DENNIS CARDOZA
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ANNA ESHOO
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CHRIS VAN HOLLEN
Member of Congress



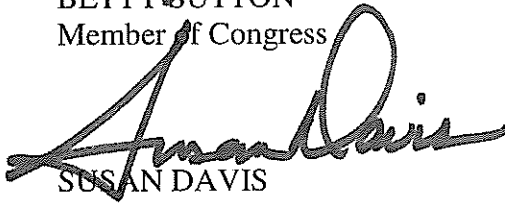
STEPHEN F. LYNCH
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BETTY SUTTON
Member of Congress



MICHAEL C. BURGESS
Member of Congress



SUSAN DAVIS
Member of Congress



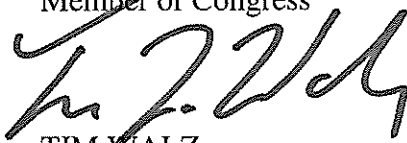
TIM BISHOP
Member of Congress



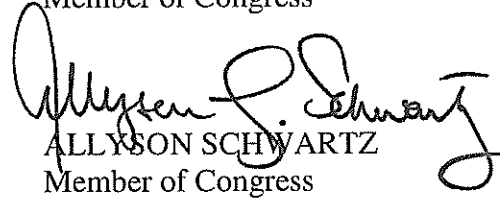
GARY PETERS
Member of Congress



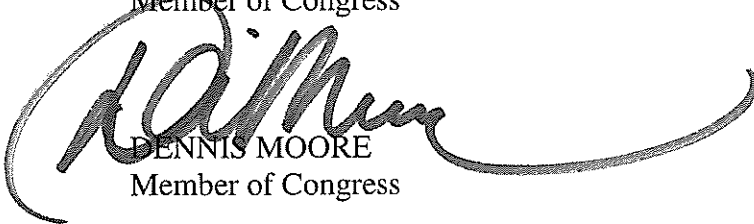
KATHY CASTOR
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TIM WALZ
Member of Congress



ALLYSON SCHWARTZ
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TOM PRICE
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Phil Hare
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John Yarmuth
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Jim McGovern
JIM MCGOVERN
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Jared Polis
JARED POLIS
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Charlie Wilson
CHARLIE WILSON
Member of Congress