

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 25, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Blunt and Ranking Member Murray:

As you begin work on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018 Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education Appropriations bill, we urge you to provide \$336 million for the Title VII health professions education and training programs at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). These programs support health care workforce development and education, train providers in interdisciplinary settings to respond to the needs of special and underserved populations, and increase minority representation in the health care workforce.

The Title VII programs have a longstanding history of increasing the supply of primary care professionals, expanding access to care in rural and urban underserved areas, and developing a workforce that reflects the nation's diversity and the needs of patients. At a time when the country is facing health provider shortages, it is critical that we continue to support the programs that advance our health care workforce, such as:

- Area Health Education Centers (AHEC),
- Allied Health,
- Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training,
- Centers of Excellence (COE),
- Clinical Training in Interprofessional Practice,
- Faculty Loan Repayment,
- Geriatrics Training,
- Health Careers Opportunity Program (HCOP),
- Mental and Behavioral Health programs,
- Oral Health Training,
- Pediatric Subspecialty Loan Repayment,
- Primary Care Medicine,
- Public Health and Preventive Medicine,
- Rural Physician Training Grants,
- Scholarships for Disadvantaged Students (SDS),
- Teaching Health Center (THC) Planning Grants, and
- Workforce Information and Analysis.

These education and training programs guide current and aspiring health professionals to high-demand careers in areas of greatest need. Support for these programs will ensure that the

distribution, quality, and diversity of the health professions workforce continue to improve, and that the workforce is prepared to meet the country's evolving and emerging health care needs. As such, we urge you to include \$336 million for these programs in FY 2018.

We greatly appreciate your leadership on this issue and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Jack Reed

Paul Costa

Tom Beldi

Jumod Brown

Rebbie Stabenow

Mazie Hironaka

Richard Blumenthal

Brian Schatz

Rohit Verma

Jessie Gresham

Ben Cardin

Heidi Heitkamp

Whitmore

Maggie Hassan

Elizabeth Wain

Jeffrey A. Markey

Jon Tustin

Al Franken

Walter

C. Wain

Ron Wyden

Edward J. Markey

J. A. B.

Ch Van Hollen

Rep Sanders

Bob Casey, Jr.

Frank

Mary F. B. J.

Kirsten Hillbrand